

THE  
MONTHLY ANTHOLOGY

FOR  
*JANUARY*, 1807.

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ADDRESS OF THE EDITORS.

ON the commencement of a new volume of the Anthology, it becomes a suitable expression of our regard for its interests for us to pay our compliments to its patrons, and invite the attention of others to its claims. At this stage of the publication, it is unnecessary to be particular in pointing out the objects of the work, or explaining the principles on which it is conducted. On these subjects the volumes, already issued, will afford better evidence for making a decision, than our declarations. They will show how far we have accomplished our design of promoting useful knowledge and harmless amusement....sound principles....good morals....and correct taste. In our selections, essays, and reviews, we have wished to aid the cause of classical learning, so extravagantly decried and presumptuously neglected in this age of innovators and sciolists. We have aimed to withstand corruptions in literature; and to establish the authority of those laws of composition, which are founded in nature, in reason, and in experience. In proposing our judgment of authors, we have frequently discussed as well doctrines and opinions, as method and style; and in this discussion we trust we have appeared, what we profess to be, in politicks neither worshippers nor contemners of the people...and in religion at once serious in belief and catholick in spirit.

We have conducted the Review under the conviction, that public criticism, upon writers for the publick, does not in itself imply either injustice or malevolence. At the same time we have sought to keep in mind those considerations, which should guide



and restrain the exercise of the right of literary censure....to make adequate allowance for the general and incurable diversity of taste, and for our own fallibility....and to espouse, with all becoming humanity, the feelings of the candidates for publick approbation. We would be the ministers of that criticism, which has been described, attending the Muses as an allegorical personage, to whom Justice gives a sceptre, and Labour and Truth a torch. To whatever errors or infirmities we may be liable in the execution of the delicate and responsible office of Reviewers, we disdain the imputation of aiming to gratify personal or party animosity under the specious form of a judgment upon a book. If any of our readers wish to know, on what grounds we vindicate the liberties taken with some works in the department of our Review, let them peruse again the *Remarker*, number five, on this subject ; and they will probably admit the justness of our general rules, though they may differ from us in their particular application. It should be a consolation to writers, disposed to complain of our severity, that we cannot obstruct, if we can retard their entrance into the temple of fame ; because time will do that justice to their merits, which we may refuse. They should also recollect, that the majority are of their party....and that they have a refuge from our supposed persecution in the prepossessions of the many. Those worthy people, who think offences against the laws of good writing venial, at least where the principles of religion and virtue are not involved ; those who praise almost every thing, from an affectation of candour and a desire to be praised in return ; together with the half-learned, the ignorant, the weak, and the interested, take their side with the author against the critick. These persons will commend where they please, without asking our permission ; and will regard our office as a usurpation upon their prerogative of judging and feeling for themselves.

We are sensible how much the value of the *Monthly Anthology* might be enhanced, not only by the more industrious and vigilant exercise of the talents, hitherto employed in supplying its pages ; but also by the contributions of some, who have seldom or never appeared in its columns. We know a few, who have wit and sentiment and information, which would augment our stock of entertainment. We likewise know a few, possessing intimate views of important subjects, with skill to display them to the



greatest advantage.... We wish they would acknowledge the public claim to their communications, enforced by the authority of the great moral poet :

“ Heaven doth with us as we with torches do,  
Not light them for themselves.”

Perhaps the present state of society tends in a peculiar degree to foster general selfishness of character. A man's intellectual attainments appear to be regarded, as the means only of his personal advantage. Doubtless many men of sense ascribe to us a species of fanaticism, as the spring of that propensity we discover to enlighten, improve, and entertain a publick, which gives us for our pains neither fame nor money. We suggest to them a solution of our conduct, which does not assign us a place greatly below or above the standard of human nature. We are exposed to the influence of that “ *Esprit de corps*,” which animates literary association. The pleasures, found in composition and in the exercise of the mental powers, put some of us upon blotting paper. If the cause still appear inadequate to the effect, we must be supposed to feel a desire to be useful in the way, which our pursuits and studies direct ; or if this seem too elevated a principle, let our services be deemed symptoms and effects of an impulse of more doubtful value.... what a late writer on moral philosophy denominates *the passion for reforming the world*.

We must confess, however, that we have a motive somewhat interested for wishing, that the pecuniary receipts of our publication may rise as high as possible above its demands, which is, that all the surplus funds are applied to the support and increase of a *Publick Library* ;...one of those institutions, of which every scholar in most parts of our country feels the want....which our government from its nature does not comprise within its cares....and which nothing but the industry and munificence of individuals will establish and supply. The respectable patronage now given to the *Anthology* is sufficient to encourage our perseverance. But we wish its more extensive circulation ; and hope its friends will speak in its favour. We wish this increase of patronage, not merely because this work is the object of our affection and partly the fruit of our industry and genius, such as they are ; nor merely from an opinion that it may contribute to make its readers more wise, good,



and happy....but also, because its avails go to a general object of real importance.

Every judicious effort to promote the love of Letters and Arts is entitled to countenance, for this, among other reasons,...that a progress in letters and arts corresponds to the progress of society in other respects, in our country. We are becoming familiar with wealth. Out of wealth grows luxury. If those enjoyments that flow from literature and taste are not emulated, we shall be exposed to that enervating and debasing luxury, the object of which is sensual indulgence...its immediate effect, vice...and its ultimate issue, publick degradation and ruin.

With respect to the probable merit of this periodical work in future, we speak with caution ; although we are determined to use our endeavours to make it worthy of the publick patronage. We have always wished to promise little and perform more. We hope it will not degenerate ; we believe it will improve. At the close of the last year, it pleased the Supreme Disposer, in his inscrutable wisdom, to remove, by death, one of our associates, who often contributed to enrich and adorn our miscellany ; who, in erudition, in genius, in taste ; in honour, generosity, and humanity ; in every liberal sentiment, and every liberal accomplishment, was surpassed by few. We sensibly feel, and we deeply deplore, this loss to ourselves, to society, and to our country. The number, however, of our fellow labourers and correspondents is increasing. We shall this year attempt to treat a few subjects in a systematick form. We may offer strictures on different modes of education. We hope to furnish American biography. In our reviews we shall generally confine ourselves to such works as may be interesting, either from their subjects or their execution ; not wholly omitting those fugitive publications, which are worthy of notice merely as facts in the history of American literature, or as topicks of useful or pleasant animadversion. We may endeavour to portray the characters of various standard authors in several departments of science and taste, for the benefit of those, who would know what guides to choose in the conduct of their studies.—We renew our request to the several booksellers in every part of the United States, to transmit to us a copy of all books, pamphlets, literary projects, &c. immediately after publication.



## BIOGRAPHY.

### SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF DR. JOSEPH WARTON,

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF MR. WOOLL'S MEMOIRS OF HIM.

THE Rev. John Wool, a Wykehamist, now master of Midhurst school, in Sussex, has just published, in a quarto volume, the *Life, Poems, and Correspondence of Dr. Joseph Warton*.

It appears that Dr. Warton, was born at the house of his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Joseph Richardson, at Dunsfold in Surrey, in April 1722. His father, as it is well known, was Vicar of Basingstoke, in Hampshire, had been Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and was himself a poet: as is proved by a posthumous volume, published by this, his eldest son, with the following title. *Poems on several occasions, by the Rev. Mr. Thomas Warton, &c.* It was published by subscription. The editor had it some time in hand. In a letter to his brother Thomas, dated 29 Oct. 1746, he says, "Since you left Basingstoke, I have found a great many poems of my father's, much better than any we read together. These I am strongly advised to publish by subscription, by Sir Stukely Shuckburgh, Dr. Jackson, and other friends. These are sufficient to make a six shilling octavo volume; and they imagine, as my father's acquaintance was large, it would be easy to raise two or three hundred pounds; a very solid argument in our present situation. It would more than pay all my father's debts. Let me know your thoughts upon this subject; but do not yet tell Hampton, or

Smythe, who would at first condemn us, without knowing the prudential reasons, which induce us to do it." The author died in the preceding year, 1745.

But Joseph Warton had already published a quarto pamphlet of his own poems, as I shall particularize presently. He was admitted on the foundation of Winchester college, 1736, and soon distinguished himself for his poetical talents. As early as Oct. 1739, he became a contributor to the poetry of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in conjunction with his friend Collins, and another; by some verses entitled "Sappho's Advice," signed *Monitorius*, and printed at p. 545.\* In 1740, he was removed from Winchester, and being superannuated, was entered of Oriel College, Oxford.

How he spent his time at Oxford may be guessed from the following interesting and eloquent passages of a letter to his father. "To help me in some parts of my last collections from Longinus, I have read a good part of Dionysius Halicarnassus: so that I think by this time I ought fully

\* It is worth remarking how many first productions of persons of genius this Magazine has ushered into the world. In the same month appears Akenside's "Hymn to Science," dated from "Newcastle upon Tyne," 1739; in the next page appears a Juvenile sonnet by Collins, signed *Delicatulus*; and in the next month, p. 599, is inserted Mrs. Carter's beautiful Ode to Melancholy.



to understand the structure and disposition of words and sentences. I shall read Longinus as long as I live : it is impossible not to catch fire and raptures from his glowing style. The noble causes he gives at the conclusion for the decay of the sublime amongst men, to wit, the love of pleasure, riches and idleness, would almost make one look down upon the world with contempt, and rejoice in, and wish for toils, poverty, and dangers, to combat with. For me, it only serves to give me a greater distaste, contempt, and hatred of the Profanum Vulgus, and to tread under foot this ἀγνίστατον πάθος as thoroughly below, and unworthy of man. It is the freedom, you give me, of unburdening my soul to you, that has troubled you so long : but so it is that the next pleasant thing to conversing with you is writing to you : I promise myself a more exalted degree of pleasure next vacation, by being in some measure better skilled to converse with you than formerly."

In 1744 he took his degree of A. B. was ordained on his father's curacy, and officiated there, till Feb. 1746. In this year he published "*Odes on various subjects. By Joseph Warton, B. A.,*" &c.

The greater part of these have been republished by Mr. Wooll. There seems no sufficient reason for what he has omitted. The whole have been lately reprinted for Sharpe's edition of the Poets.

In the following year he was presented by the Duke of Bolton to the small rectory of Wynslade, at the back of Hackwood Park, a pleasing and picturesque retirement, which gave him an opportunity at once of gratifying an ardent attachment by marriage, and pursuing his poetical studies. Two years afterwards he was called to

go abroad with his patron ; and on this occasion his brother, Thomas, wrote that beautiful "Ode sent to a friend on leaving a favourite village in Hampshire," which alone, in my opinion, would place him in the higher order of poets ; and which is one of the most exquisite descriptive pieces in the whole body of English poetry. Every line paints, with the nicest and most discriminative touches, the scenery about Wynslade and Hackwood.

"Ah ! mourn, thou lov'd retreat ! No  
more  
Shall classick steps thy scenes explore !" &c. &c.

"For lo ! the Bard, who rapture found  
In every rural sight and sound ;  
Whose genius warm, and judgment  
chaste  
No charm of genuine nature pass'd ;  
Who felt the muse's purest fires,  
Far from thy favour'd haunt retires :  
Who peopled all thy vocal bowers  
With shadowy shapes, and airy powers !"

The first of T. Warton's sonnets is also addressed to Wynslade : and the images in several of his other poems are drawn from this neighbourhood.\*

In about six months, when they had advanced no farther than Montauban, Dr. Warton left his patron, and returned to his family. He now dedicated his whole time to the translation of Virgil's Eclogues and Georgics : which he soon afterwards published, with Pitt's Translation of the Æneid, and the original Latin of the whole ; accompanied by notes, dissertations, commentaries, and essays. This work was well received ; and Oxford conferred the degree of A. M. by diploma on the Editor.

\* The lines which begin  
"Musing thro' the lawny park"  
I presume to allude to Hackwood, &c.



At this time Dr. Johnson, in a letter dated 8 March 1753, applied to him from Hawksworth to assist in the *Adventurer*. "Being desired," says he, "to look out for another hand, my thoughts necessarily fixed on you, whose fund of literature will enable you to assist them, with very little interruption of your studies," &c. &c. "The province of Criticism they are desirous to assign to the Commentator on Virgil."\* His first paper, I believe, is No. 49, 24 April, 1753, containing "a Parallel between ancient and modern learning." His communications are undoubtedly the best of the whole work; and are written with an extent of erudition, a force of thought, and a purity, elegance, and vigour of language, which demand very high praise.

He now planned to unite in a volume, and publish "Select Epistles of Angelus Politianus, Desiderius Erasmus, Hugo Grotius, and others," a part of a design for a History of the Revival of Learning, which had also been agitated by his brother, and his friend Collins; but which unfortunately none of them executed.

In 1754 he obtained the living of Tunworth, near Wynslade; and in 1755 was elected second Master of Winchester school.

In 1756 he published the first volume of his "Essay on the genius and writings of Pope:" "A book," says the supercilious Johnson, "which teaches how the brow of criticism may be smoothed, and how she may be enabled, with all her severity, to attract and to delight;" but which, as it counteracted the stream of fashion, and opposed long received prejudices, did not meet with unquali-

fied approbation. He did not put his name to it, nor did he communicate the information to many of his literary friends; but it was immediately known to be his. Richardson, I think, calls it an amusing piece of literary gossip. Richardson, though a genius, was not a man of literature; or he never could have called it "gossip." The critical observations are almost always just, original, and happily expressed; and discover a variety of learning, and an activity of mind, which are entitled to admiration. It is true that his method is often abrupt and desultory; but it is dullness, or ignorance, alone, which mistakes formality of arrangement, and the imposition of a philosophic manner, for depth of thought, and novelty of instruction.

The essay drew forth, in due time, Ruffhead's *Life of Pope*, a poor jejune performance, written with all the sterility and narrowness of a Special Pleader.

In 1766 Dr. Warton succeeded to the Head-Mastership of Winchester school. In 1772 he lost his first wife. About this time he became a member of the literary club in London. In Dec. 1773, he remarried Miss Nicholas. In 1782, he obtained from Bishop Lowth a prebend of St. Paul's, and the living of Chorley, in Hertfordshire; which last he exchanged for that of Wickham, in Hants.

In this last year, 1782, he gave the world the second volume of his "Essay on Pope," of which the publication had been retarded by motives of a delicate and laudable nature.

In 1786 he suffered a most severe affliction in the loss of his second son, the Rev. Thomas Warton, Fellow of New College, Oxford, a young man of high talents

\* Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, I. 224.



and acquirements, and four years afterwards he lost his beloved brother, with whom he had always enjoyed a mutuality of affections and studies, of a very uncommon kind.

In 1788 he obtained, through the interest of Lord Shannon, a prebend of Winchester cathedral. He soon after obtained the Rectory of Easton, which he exchanged for that of Upham.

Being now at the age of 71, he resigned his school on 23 July 1793, and retired to his Rectory of Wickham, "carrying with him the love, admiration, and esteem of the whole Wykehamical society."

"That ardent mind," says Mr. Wooll, "which had so eminently distinguished the exercise of his publick duties, did not desert him in the hours of leisure and retirement; for inactivity was foreign to his nature. His parsonage, his farm, his garden, were cultivated and adorned with the eagerness and taste of undiminished youth; whilst the beauties of the surrounding forest scenery, and the interesting grandeur of the neighbouring shore, were enjoyed by him with an enthusiasm innate in his very being. His lively sallies of playful wit, his rich store of literary anecdote, and the polished and habitual ease, with which he imperceptibly entered into the various ideas and pursuits of men in different situations, and endowed with educations totally opposite, rendered him an acquaintance both profitable and amusing; whilst his unaffected piety and unbounded charity, stamped him a pastor adored by his parishioners. Difficult indeed would it be to decide, whether he shone in a degree less in this social character, than in the closet of criticism, or the chair of instruction."

He did not however sink into literary idleness. In 1797 he edited the works of Pope in 9 vols. 8vo. The notes to this edition, which necessarily include the greatest part of his celebrated Essay, are highly entertaining and instructive. But Dr. Warton was severely, and, it may be added, illiberally, attacked for inserting one or two somewhat indecent pieces in this edition, which had hitherto been excluded from his collected works. The most harsh of these attacks came from the author of the Pursuits of Literature: something, no doubt, must be deducted from the violence of one, whose professed object was satire; but the grey hairs and past services of Warton ought to have protected him from excessive rudeness; and these over-nice criticks might, with a proper regard to consistency, have demanded the exclusion of several other works of Pope. It must not be concealed, however, that Beattie agreed in some degree with these censurers. "I have just seen," says he, "a new edition by Dr. Joseph Warton, of the works of Pope. It is fuller than Warburton's; but you will not think it better, when I tell you, that all Pope's obscenities, which Warburton was careful to omit, are carefully preserved by Warton, who also seems to have a great favour for infidel writers, particularly Voltaire. The book is well printed, but has no cuts, except a curious caricature of Pope's person, and an elegant profile of his head."\*

Warton was not however deterred by the blame he thus suffered, from entering upon an edition of Dryden; which, alas! he did

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\* Forbes, II. 320.



not live to finish ; though he left two volumes ready for the press. This however is the less to be regretted as a similar undertaking is now in the hands of Mr. Walter Scott.

He died 23 Feb. 1800, æt. 78, leaving behind him a widow ; one son, Rev. John Warton ; and three daughters ; of whom only the youngest was by the last wife.

Such are the outlines of Dr. Warton's life ; in which I have not confined myself to Mr. Wooll's Memoir, having inserted a few trifling notices from personal knowledge. I cannot here transcribe at length the delineation of his moral and literary character, with which his biographer concludes the present publication : but in the brief observations I shall make with candour, yet with frankness, my opinion both of that, and of the success with which Mr. Wooll has executed his task, will appear.

Let me own then, that the volume now presented to the world, in some respects, does not quite answer my expectations. The life itself, considering it comes from one, who was a native of Winchester, who was brought up under Dr. Warton, and who seems to have had the advantage of all the family papers, is rather too sparing, not merely of incident, which literary men seldom supply, but of remarks, opinions, anecdotes, habits of study, and pictures of mind. In truth a great deal of what it tells, was known before. It is written with much talent, and elegance ; and every where exhibits the scholar and the man of virtuous sentiment. But perhaps the important duties of Mr. Wooll's station have not given him time to fill his mind with all, which probably may be called the idlenesses of modern literature, but which

are yet necessary to give a rich and lively interest to the memoirs of a modern author ; more especially of one, whose own mind abounded in that kind of knowledge.

In the next place, the correspondence which Warton himself left for publication, and which therefore, as it was well known how long and how widely he had been connected with persons of genius, excited the strongest curiosity, is, for the most part, slight and unimportant. It is true, the letters are, every one of them, those of eminent people : but scarce any one written with any effort ; or upon interesting subjects. What can have become of the letters of the Wartons themselves ? Or did they find no time, or no talent for epistolary exertion ? For here are, I think, only sixteen of Dr. Warton ; and only two of T. Warton. A few of them have nothing to do with either of the Wartons. Two or three of Dr. Johnson are interesting, as they relate to Collins, the poet.

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*Dr. Johnson to Dr. Warton,*  
*March 8, 1754.*

\*\*\*. "How little can we venture to exult in any intellectual powers, or literary attainments, when we consider the condition of poor Collins ! I knew him a few years ago, full of hopes and full of projects, versed in many languages, high in fancy, and strong in retention. This busy and forcible mind is now under the government of those who lately would not have been able to comprehend the least and most narrow of its designs. What do you hear of him ? Are there hopes of his recovery ? Or is he to pass the remainder of his life in misery and degradation ? Perhaps with complete consciousness of his calamity."



Again, Dec. 24, 1754. \*\*\*  
 "Poor dear Collins! Let me know, whether you think it would give him pleasure, if I should write to him. I have often been near his state; and therefore have it in great commiseration."

Again, April 15, 1756. \*\*\*  
 "What becomes of poor dear Collins? I wrote him a letter, which he never answered. I suppose writing is very troublesome to him. That man is no common loss. The moralists all talk of the uncertainty of fortune; and the transitoriness of beauty; but it is yet more dreadful to consider, that the powers of the mind are equally liable to change; that understanding may make its appearance, and depart; that it may blaze and expire!"

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 Collins died in this very year 1756. It is singular that, after Dr. Johnson had written about him with such ardent and eloquent affection, he could at a long subsequent period, when time generally meliorates the love of departed friends, and memory aggrandizes their images, speak of him with such splenetick and degrading criticism in his "Lives of the poets." Those lives, especially of his cotemporaries, powerful as they often are, have gone further towards the suppression of rising genius, than any book our language has produced. They flatter the prejudices of dull men, and the envy of those who love not literary pursuits; and on this account, in addition to the wonderful force with which they are composed, have obtained a dangerous popularity, which has given a full effect to their poison.

The next best letter, is one, and indeed the only one, by Mrs. Montagu, whose correspondence always shines

velut inter ignes  
 Luna minores,

in whatever work it appears.

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*Mrs. Montagu, to Dr. Warton,*  
 17 Sept. 1782.

\*\*\*. "By opening to us the original and genuine books of the inspired poets, and distinguishing too what is really divine in them, you lead us back to true taste. Criticks that demand an ignorant submission, and implicit faith in their infallibility of judgment, or the councils of learned academies, passing degrees as arbitrary, could never establish a rational devotion to the muses, or mark those boundaries, which are rather guides than restraints. By the candour and impartiality, with which you examine and decide on the merits of the ancients and moderns, we are all informed and instructed; and I will confess I feel myself inexpressibly delighted with the praises you give to the instructor of my early youth, Dr. Young, and the friends of my maturer age, Lord Lyttelton and Mr. West. Having ever considered the friendship of these excellent persons as the greatest honour of my life, and endeavouring hourly to set before me their precepts, and their examples, I could not but be highly gratified by seeing you place a guard of laurel round their tombs, which will secure them from any mischievous impressions, envy may attempt to make. I do not love the wolf and the tiger, who assail the living passenger; but most of all beasts I abhor the vampire, who violates the tomb, profanes the sepulchre, and sucks the blood of sleeping men—cowardly, cruel, ungenerous, monster! You and your brother are criticks of another disposition; too superieur to be jealous, too good to be severe, you



give encouragement to living authors, protection to the memories of those of former times ; and instead of destroying monuments, you bestow them. I have often thought, with delighted gratitude, that many centuries after my little Essay on Shakespeare is lost and forgotten, the mention made of it in the History of English Poetry, the Essay on Pope, and Mr. Harris's Philological Enquiries, will not only preserve it from oblivion, but will present it to opinion with much greater advantages than it originally appeared with. These reflections afford some of the happiest moments to

"Yours, &c. &c.

"ELIZ. MONTAGU."

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To the juvenile poetry of Dr. Warton, which is here republished, scarce any thing new is added. Perhaps I may think that Mr. Wooll has rated his powers in this way, if we judge from these remains, a little too high ; though there are some striking and appropriate traits in his delineation of them. Yet I must admit that "The Enthusiast, or Lover of Nature," written at the age of 18, is a rich and beautiful descriptive poem, and I will indulge no hyper-criticisms upon it. The Odes it is impossible to avoid comparing with those of his friend and rival, Collins, which were published in the same year, at the same age ; and it is equally impossible to be blind to their striking inferiority. The Ode to Fancy has much merit ; but it seems to me to want originality ; and to be more an effort of memory, than of original and predominant genius. The finest lines, consisting of 28, which begin at verse 59, were inserted subsequent to the first edition, a circumstance not noted by Mr. Wooll. The Ode to Content, (not in the first

edition) in the same metre as Collins's Ode to Evening, has great merit ; but here again we are unfortunately too strongly reminded of its exquisite rival.\* Warton has also an Ode to Evening, in which are some good stanzas. "The Dying Indian ;" and more particularly "The Revenge of America," are very fine ; but the latter is too short for such a subject, and ends too abruptly. On the whole, I cannot honestly subscribe to Mr. Wooll, where he says : "There breathes through his poetry a genuinely spirited invention, a fervour which can alone be produced by an highly-inspired mind ; and which, it is to be presumed, fairly ranks him amidst what he himself properly terms, "the makers and inventors ;" that is, the "real poets." There seems to be wanting these original and predominant impressions, that peculiarity of character, which always accompany high genius, and which are exhibited in the poetry both of his brother Thomas, and his cotemporary Beattie.

This opinion, if just, will not detract from Dr. Warton's critical talents. The power which feels, and the power which originates poetry, are totally distinct. The former no writer seems to have

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\* Dr. Warton, in a note to Milton's Translation of the 5th Ode, Lib. i. of Horace, in his brother's edition of that poet, says : "In this measure, my friend and school-fellow, Mr. William Collins, wrote his admired Ode to Evening ; and I know he had a design of writing many more Odes without rhyme." T. Warton goes on to say, that "Dr. I. Warton might have added, that his own Ode to Evening was written before that of his friend Collins ; as was a poem of his, entitled "The Assembly of the Passions ;" before Collins's favourite Ode on that subject." Mr. Wooll has inserted a prose sketch on this subject ; but no poem.



possessed with more exquisite precision, than Dr. Warton ; and I do not mean to deny that he possessed the latter in a considerable degree : I only say that his powers of execution do not seem to have been equal to his taste.

But Dr. Warton's fame does not rest upon his poetry. As a critick in polite literature he stands in the foremost ranks. And Mr. Wooll, who being educated under him had the best opportunity of forming a just opinion, has delineated his character as a teacher with the highest and most discriminate praise. His vivacity, his benevolence, and his amiable temper, and moral excellencies have long been known ; and are celebrated by his biographer with a fond admiration. But I must say, that Mr.

Wooll, in his dread of "descending to the minutiae of daily habits," has not left us a portrait sufficiently distinct. Nor has he given us any sufficiently bold touches, such as we had a right to expect in the life of one of the Wartons ; while, unfortunately, here are scarce any original letters to supply the deficiency. I had hoped to have found materials for an interesting and energetick character ; but, what Mr. Wooll has omitted, it would be rash for a stranger to attempt.

Mr. Wooll however promises another volume, and tho' I cannot hope that my suggestions will have any influence with him, yet perhaps some one of more authority may induce him to favour the publick with a supplementary account.

*For the Anthology.*

### ORIGINAL LETTER.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF SEVERAL VILLAGES  
IN THE CANTON OF SCHWEITZ.

*Geneva, Sept. 26th, 1806.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WE have at length finished the tour of Switzerland, and add two more to the ten thousands, who have seen and admired before us. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* has been my companion ever since we reluctantly parted with \*\*\*\*\* at Rotterdam (13th of Aug.) ; and as he has a taste for the picturesque, and I have pretty good eyes, we have seen and enjoyed as much, as other galloping travellers. You, I know, are rather curious in geography ; and if you are at leisure to pore over a large map of Switzerland, you will have it in your power to trace your friend's route through this interesting country.

After a satisfactory journey up the Rhine, from Rotterdam through Utrecht, Nimeguen, Cleves, Cologne, Coblenz, Mayence, Worms, Strasburg, and Colmar, we entered Switzerland at *Basle* the 5th of September. For the sake of seeing the famous *chute du Rhin* we went fifty miles out of our way as far as *Schaffhausen*, passing through a part of the *Brigau*, once belonging to the humbled house of Austria, but now given to the Prince of Baden. From *Schaffhausen* we travelled to *Zurich*, in my estimation the most eligible spot in Switzerland ; thence we crossed mount *Albis* on our way to *Lucerne*, by a road almost too difficult for carriages. From *Lucerne* we sent our voiture



empty to Berne, while we prepared for our excursion into the mountains. We began by crossing the lake of Lucerne to *Russnacht*, thence over a strip of land to *Imisee* on the lake of Zug; thence to *Art* at its southern extremity, and thence along the small lake of *Lowertz* to *Boünner*, where we again embarked for *Altorf*. In this day's tour we were in three of the small cantons, Zug, Schwitz, and Uri. At Altorf properly commenced our passage into the mountains, along the road which leads over the St. Gothard into Italy. The path lies near the banks of the *Reuss*, which it frequently crosses, especially by the famous *Pont du Diable*. This road into Italy is passable only by mules and pedestrians, to which latter class we had the honour for three days to belong. We travelled on foot as far as *Hopital*, a small village in the valley of *Urseren*, at the foot of St. Gothard. Here we took mules to carry us over the difficult passes of the *Furea* and the *Grimsel*, two of the vast chain of Alps which laid between us and Berne. The 14th September we crossed the *Furea*, being obliged to descend from our mules, and wade through snow above our knees, because the customary path was entirely concealed. We descended then to the source of the *Rhone*, and to the village of *Obergestelen* in the Haut Valais, from which point we began to ascend the *Grimsel*. If you have a good map, you will see that we here made a very devious track, because the shortest route, which leads over the *Mayenwund*, was rendered impassable by the snow. At five o'clock we reached the summit of the *Grimsel*, 7000 feet above the sea, and the highest point of our peregrinations; we slept this night in what is called

the *Hospice* of the *Grimsel*. The next day we descended to *Meyringen* and left our mules, thence across the lakes of *Brien* and *Thun* to *Thun*, where we took a carriage for *Berne*. At this capital we found our empty voiture, and our trunks safe, and set off the next day for *Lausanne*. We passed through *Morat*, *Avenches*, *Payerne*, and *Moudon*, all Roman cities and full of antiquities, and arrived the 19th at *Lausanne*, which was totally uninteresting to us, except as the favourite residence of *Gibbon*. The next day we travelled over one of the most superb *chaussées* in the world to *Geneva*. Nothing remained now but to visit *Chamouni* and the glaciers of *Mont Blanc*, which by the blessing of heaven we have safely accomplished in four days, and are ready to set off for *Paris* tomorrow morning. From this sketch of our wanderings, you will see that we have made a pretty complete tour through Switzerland, by travelling less, probably, than four hundred miles.

Excuse the meagre aspect of this itinerary. You know it would be absurd to attempt to give in a letter a proper journal of one's travels; and to pretend to describe any spot particularly interesting would be only to repeat what you may easily find in books. All I mean by this sketch is to let you know where your friend has been; perhaps too it may refresh for a little while your geographical recollection.

There is an event, however, which happened just before our arrival in Switzerland, of which no particular account may have yet reached America, and which I think cannot be uninteresting, especially to those of our friends who have visited this charming country. Indeed it is too disastrous



to be related or read with indifference.

If you have a large map of Switzerland, I beg of you to look for a spot in the canton of Schwitz, situated between the lakes of Zug and Lowertz on two sides, and the mountains of Rigi and Rossberg on the others. Here, but three weeks ago, was one of the most delightfully fertile vallies of all Switzerland; green, and luxuriant, adorned with several little villages, full of secure and happy farmers. Now three of these villages are forever effaced from the earth, and a broad waste of ruins, burying alive fourteen hundred peasants, overspreads the valley of Lowertz.

About 5 o'clock in the evening of the *third of September* a large projection of the mountain of Rossberg, on the north east, gave way, and precipitated itself into this valley; and in less than four minutes completely overwhelmed the three villages of *Goldau*, *Busingen*, and *Rathlen*, with a part of *Lowertz* and *Oberart*. The torrent of earth and stones was far more rapid than that of lava, and its effects as resistless and as terrible. The mountain in its descent carried trees, rocks, houses, every thing before it. The mass spread in every direction, so as to bury completely a space of charming country, *more than three miles square*. The force of the earth must have been prodigious, since it not only spread over the hollow of the valley, but even ascended far up the opposite side of the Rigi. The quantity of earth, too, is enormous, since it has left a considerable hill in what was before the centre of the vale. A portion of the falling mass rolled into the lake of Lowertz, and it is calculated that a fifth part is filled up. On a minute map

you will see two little islands marked in this lake, which have been admired for their picturesqueness. One of them is famous for the residence of two hermits, and the other for the remains of an ancient chateau, once belonging to the house of Hapsburg. So large a body of water was raised and pushed forward by the falling of such a mass into the lake, that the two islands, and the whole village of Seven, at the southern extremity, were, for a time, completely submerged by the passing of the swell. A large house in this village was lifted off its foundations and carried half a mile beyond its place. The hermits were absent on a pilgrimage to the abbey of Einsiedeln.

The disastrous consequences of this event extend further than the loss of such a number of inhabitants in a canton of little population. A fertile plain is at once converted into a barren tract of rocks and calcareous earth, and the former marks and boundaries of property obliterated. The main road from Art to Schwitz is completely filled up, so that another must be opened with great labour over the Rigi. The former channel of a large stream is choked up, and its course altered; and as the outlets and passage of large bodies of water must be affected by the filling up of such a portion of the lake, the neighbouring villages are still trembling with apprehension of some remote consequences, against which they know not how to provide. Several hundred men have been employed in opening passages for the stagnant waters, in forming a new road for foot passengers along the Rigi, and in exploring the ruins. The different cantons have contributed to the relief of the suffering canton of Schwitz, and every head is at



work to contrive means to prevent further disasters.

The number of inhabitants buried alive under the ruins of this mountain, is scarcely less than fifteen hundred. Some even estimate it as high as two thousand. Of these, a woman and two children have been found alive, after having been several days under ground. They affirm that while they were thus entombed, they heard the cries of poor creatures who were perishing around them, for want of that succour which they were so happy as to receive. Indeed it is the opinion of many well informed people, that a large number might still be recovered ; and a writer in the *Publiciste* goes so far as to blame the inactivity of the neighbouring inhabitants ; and quotes many well-attested facts to prove that persons have lived a long time, buried under snow and earth. This at least is probable in the present case, that many houses, exposed to a lighter weight than others, may have been merely a little crushed, while the lower story, which in this part of Switzerland is frequently of stone, may have remained firm, and thus not a few of the inhabitants escaped unhurt. The consternation into which the neighbouring towns of Art and Schweitz were thrown, appears indeed to have left them incapable of contriving and executing those labours which an enlightened compassion would dictate.

The mountain of Rossberg, as well as the Rigi, and other mountains in its vicinity, are composed of a kind of brittle calcareous earth, and pudding stone, or aggregated rocks. Such a prodigious mass as that which fell, would easily crumble by its own weight, and spread over a wide surface. The bed of the mountain, from which

the desolation came, is a plane inclined from north to south. Its appearance, as it is now laid bare, would lead one to suppose that the mass, when first moved from its base, slid for some distance before it precipitated itself into the valley. The height of the Spitsberg (the name of the projection which fell) above the lake and valley of Lowertz, was little less than two thousand feet. The composition of the chain of the Rigi, of which the Rossberg makes a part, has always been an obstacle in the way of those system makers, who have built their hypotheses upon the structure of the Alps. It has nothing granitic in its whole mass, and though nearly six thousand feet above the sea, is green and even fertile to its summit. It is composed of nothing but earth and stone, combined in rude masses. It is also remarkable that the strata of which it is composed, are distinctly inclined from the north toward the south, a character which is common to all rocks of this kind through the whole range of Alps, as well as to the greater part of calcareous, schistous, and pyritic rocks, and also to the whole chain of the Jura.

It was about a week after the fall of the mountain, that our route through Switzerland led us to visit this scene of desolation ; and never can I forget the succession of melancholy views, which presented themselves to our curiosity. In our way to it, we landed at Art, a town situated at the southern extremity of the lake of Zug ; and we skirted along the western boundary of the ruins, by the side of Mount Rigi, toward the lake of Lowertz. From various points on our passage, we had complete views of such a scene of destruction, as no words can adequately describe.



Picture to yourself a rude and mingled mass of earth and stones, bristled with the shattered parts of wooden cottages, and with thousands of heavy trees, torn up by the roots, and projecting in every direction. In one part you might see a range of peasants' huts, which the torrent of earth had reached with just force enough to overthrow and tear in pieces, but without bringing soil enough to cover them. In another were mills broken in pieces by huge rocks, transported from the top of the mountain, which fell, and carried high up the opposite side of the Rigi. Large pools of water had formed themselves in different parts of the ruins, and many little streams, whose usual channels had been filled up, were bursting out in various places. Birds of prey, attracted by the smell of dead bodies, were hovering all about the valley. But the general impression made upon us by the sight of such an extent of desolation, connected, too, with the idea that hundreds of wretched creatures were at that moment alive, buried under a mass of earth, and inaccessible to the cries and labours of their friends, was too horrible to be described or understood. As we travelled along the borders of the chaos of ruined buildings, a poor peasant, wearing a countenance ghastly with woe, came up to us to beg a piece of money. He had three children buried in the ruins of a cottage, which he was endeavouring to clear away. A little further on, we came to an elevated spot, which overlooked the whole scene. Here we found a painter seated on a rock, and busy in sketching its horrors. He had chosen a most favourable point. Before him, at the distance of more than a league, rose the Rossberg, from whose bare side had rushed

the destroyer of all this life and beauty. On his right was the lake of Lowertz, partly filled with the earth of the mountain. On the banks of this lake was all that remained of the town of Lowertz. Its church was demolished; but the tower yet stood amid the ruins, shattered, but not thrown down. The figure, which animated this part of the drawing, were a few miserable peasants, left to grope among the wrecks of one half their village. The foreground of the picture was a wide desolate sweep of earth and stones, relieved by the shattered roof of a neighbouring cottage. On the left hand spread the blue and tranquil surface of the lake of Zug, on the margin of which yet stands the pleasant village of Art, almost in contact with the ruins, and trembling even in its preservation.

We proceeded, in our descent, along the side of the Rigi, toward the half-buried village of Lowertz. Here we saw the poor curate, who is said to have been a spectator of the fall of the mountain. He saw the torrent of earth rushing toward his village, overwhelming half his people, and stopping just before his door! What a situation! He appeared, as we passed, to be superintending the labours of some of the survivors, who were exploring the ruins of the place. A number of new made graves, marked with a plain pine cross, showed where a few of the wretched victims of this catastrophe had just been interred.

Our course lay along the borders of the enchanting lake of Lowertz. The appearance of the slopes, on the eastern and southern sides, told us what the valley of Goldau was a few days since, smiling with varied vegetation, gay with villages and cottages, and bright with promises of autumnal plenty. The



shores of this lake were covered with ruins of huts, with hay, with furniture and clothes, which the vast swell of its waters had lodged on the banks. As we were walking mournfully along toward Schweitz, we met with the dead body of a woman, which had been just found. It was stretched out on a board, and barely covered with a white cloth. Two men, preceded by a priest, were carrying it to a more decent burial. We hoped that this sight would have concluded the horrors of this day's scenery, and that we should soon escape from every painful vestige of the calamity of Schweitz. But we continued to find relicks of ruined buildings for a league along the whole extent of the lake ; and a little beyond the two islands, mentioned above, we saw, lying on the shore, the stiff body of a peasant, which had been washed up by the waves, and which two men were examining, to ascertain where he belonged. Our guide instantly knew it to be one of the inhabitants of Goldau. But I will mention no more particulars. Some perhaps that have been related to me are not credible, and others which are credible are too painful.

The immediate cause of this calamitous event is not yet sufficiently ascertained and probably never will be. The fall of parts of hills is not uncommon ; and in Switzerland especially there are several instances recorded of the descent of large masses of earth and stones. But so sudden and extensive a ruin as this was, perhaps, never produced by the fall of a mountain. It can be com-

pared only to the destruction made by the tremendous eruptions of Etna and Vesuvius. Many persons suppose that the long and copious rains, which they have lately had in this part of Switzerland, may have swelled the mountains, in the Rossberg sufficiently to push this part of the mountain off its inclined base. But we saw no marks of streams issuing from any part of the bed which is laid bare. Perhaps the consistency of the earth in the interior of the mountain was so much altered by the moisture which penetrated into it, that the projection of the Spitzberg was no longer held by a sufficiently strong cohesion, and its own weight carried it over. Perhaps as the earth is calcareous, a kind of fermentation took place sufficient to loosen its foundations. But there is no end to conjectures. The mountain has fallen and the villages are no more.

I cannot but reflect upon my weakness in complaining of our long delay at Strasburg. If we had not been detained there ten days, waiting for our passports, we should have been in Switzerland the 3d of September, probably in the vicinity of the lake of Lowertz—perhaps under the ruins of Goldau. Several travellers, or rather strangers, were destroyed ; but whether they were there on business or for pleasure, I know not. Among them are several respectable inhabitants of Berne, and a young lady of fine accomplishments and amiable character, whose loss is much lamented. My dear friend, bless God that we are alive and enjoying so many comforts.



For the Anthology.

# REMARKER, No. 17.

προς πολυπραγμίων κακυνθης.

PLUTARCH.

Curiosus nemo est, quin sit malevolus.

PLAUTUS.

Every inquisitive person is malicious.

AMONG those smaller offences against society, that hold an intermediate rank between folly and vice, I know of no one, more despicable in itself, or more vexatious to others, than that inquisitive turn of mind, which excites the restless curiosity of the frivolous and impertinent, to pry into the affairs of their neighbours. Since no man, as some one observes, is respectable in the eyes of his *valet de chambre*, so no man would wish to have the little arrangements of his domestic economy scrutinized by the eye, and misrepresented by the tongue of the officious and malignant, around the scandalous tea-tables of male and female gossips.

A man's house is his castle; and whatever passes within its walls should be considered as sacred as the mysteries of Eleusis. Though a good man will say or do nothing, at any time, for which he may have reason to blush, yet, in the unguarded confidence of social conversation, he may discuss the characters of men, and the tendency of measures, in a manner, that might incur the resentment of the parties concerned, should it reach their ears. Whoever, therefore, betrays conversation of this kind, may create a serious misunderstanding between worthier men than himself; and should he escape the chastisement of the spirited, yet will he be shunned, in future, as a dangerous companion, by the prudent.

But though this treachery to social confidence may be productive of serious consequences, yet, as it often proceeds rather from want of consideration, than from premeditated mischief, so is it commonly less vexatious, than the prying inquisitiveness of wanton curiosity. The one may occasionally lead you into a scrape, but the other obliges you to be perpetually on your guard. The former may cause you uneasiness for a day, but the latter may harass you during the whole course of your life.

*Curio* is acquainted with the circumstances of almost every man in town; can tell precisely how many pounds of coffee Mr. *Trade-well* expects from abroad, and the exact amount of Mr. *Hoardwell's* property, in farms, wharves, houses, and bank-stock, at home. From this kind of knowledge, he has been enabled to predict with accuracy the moment of a failure; and hence, at one time, acquired a distinguished character for sagacity and penetration. This, with a face of wisdom, which concealed the meanness of his intellectual powers, gave him, at one time, considerable importance in the eyes of politicians. But, by his tergiversation, he soon lost credit with both parties, as he had deserved the confidence of neither. Admiration gradually degenerated into contempt; and he now lives, neglected and despised, a bankrupt in property and in fame, with the



reputation of a meddler in the affairs of others, whilst he neglected his own, of a Jew without riches, and of a politician without principles.

Miss *Prywell* is a maiden lady, unhappily tormented with an insatiable thirst, to know every event that takes place, in the parlour and kitchen of her neighbours. As the habitable part of her house unluckily does not face the street, she is obliged to have recourse to a small closet, with a single window, where she gratifies her favourite passion, by watching the important occurrences of the day. There she sits, in all the delightful agony of expectation, to observe, who goes in or out of the houses within her view ; and sometimes, by the aid of a pocket telescope, is fortunate enough to identify an individual, amidst the company of a neighbour's parlour. Should any domestick duty call her off from this laudable occupation, *Betty* is immediately summoned to relieve guard, with strict injunctions to have all her eyes about her, and to suffer no individual, male or female, to pass unobserved. Should a coach stop within eye-shot of Miss *Prywell*, the willing *Betty*, who has caught the inquisitive infection from her mistress, is instantly dispatched for intelligence... 'Here, *Betty*, *Betty*, run over to Mr. B.'s, and see who is in that coach. And, *Betty*, ask the girls in the kitchen, what gentleman, in a blue, surtout, dined there yesterday. And, *Betty*, be sure, and observe, what they have for dinner to-day.' Away runs *Betty*, and, after due time, returns almost breathless, with the important intelligence, which she pours circumstantially into the 'greedy ear' of her delighted mistress.

Miss *Prywell* is as well, and sometimes better, acquainted with

the circumstances of her neighbours, than they are themselves. She knows the exact cost of the furniture in each parlour, and can enumerate, with precision, every article in the kitchen. Even the contents of your servant's market-basket cannot escape the vigilance of this argus-eyed lady, and she can generally ascertain the arrangement for the dinner of the day, as accurately as those who provide it.

Miss *Prywell* delights in reporting the important facts, of which, at the expense of so much time and trouble, she has made herself mistress. But as the motto of my paper observes that, 'every inquisitive person is malicious,' she always adorns her narrative with some poetical embellishment, not strictly conformable with the truth of authentick history. Miss *Prywell* is very lively and very silly, and affords a striking proof, how much knowledge may be acquired, even by persons of the meanest capacity, if they will but apply the whole force of their faculties to its acquisition.

There are others, who sometimes mix with the first circles, who run to one house to collect intelligence, and to another to report it ; who, with despicable talents, sometimes create considerable mischief, since their very silliness screens them from suspicion. Some one compares these communicative people to leaden pipes, which serve to convey fresh streams of intelligence from house to house. This basest of metal answers for this servile office, whilst we reserve gold and silver for more valuable employments.

In a word, there cannot be a more despicable turn of mind, than this frivolous curiosity about trifles, and restless anxiety to know what



does not concern you, and which, after all, cannot be worth knowing. Relinquish the occupation then, to those, whom it best becomes ; tattling gossips, envious old bachelors, and disappointed old maids.

## INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY.

[The Editors are happy to adorn their pages with the following learned and eloquent disquisition on a great constitutional question. It was written some years previous to the act of June 20, 1806, increasing the salaries of the judges, and placing them on a permanent and honourable establishment. But in a government, like our own, dependent in no small degree on the public opinion, it is never unseasonable to recur to the fundamental principles of the constitution : and we invite the writer to furnish us with other disquisitions on constitutional and juridical subjects. We fully subscribe to his reasoning in this communication, and do not hesitate to express our firm belief, that the people of this commonwealth certainly intended, at the adoption of the constitution, that the judicial department should be an independent branch of the government, and that the judges should be as free, both by the tenure of their office, and by the nature and degree of their compensation, as is consistent with the human condition. We take this opportunity to observe, that our Miscellany is intended, not only for a repository of taste and imagination, but that the learned of our country, in all arts and sciences, are solicited to give immortality to its pages by a liberal communication of their speculations.]

*For the Anthology.*

THE QUESTION TOUCHING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT, AS WELL WITH RESPECT TO THEIR SALARIES, AS TO THE TENURE OF THEIR OFFICE, CONSIDERED ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS.

AND, first, as to their salaries. On this point the 29th art. of the Declaration of Rights says, "*The Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court should have honourable salaries, ascertained and ESTABLISHED by standing laws.*" Accordingly we find—

The first act of the legislature, (February 12, 1801) granting salaries to the judges, after the constitution came into operation, made them permanent, that is, without limitation of time. But when their permanent salaries were deemed inadequate to their increased services, subsequent legislatures have made annual or

temporary additions to them ; thereby so far destroying the independence of the Supreme Judicial Department. The right of the legislature to make such grants to the judges being always called into question. By another act, (Feb. 27, 1790) which repealed the first, and made the *whole* of their salaries *permanent*, the judges were again restored to their constitutional independence.

But their state in this respect has since been changed ; and when from the increase of their services, and from other causes, it was again deemed fit and reasonable to augment their salaries, the legis-



lature have had recourse to the same measure of making annual or temporary additions to the salaries granted and established by the act of Feb. 27, 1790. Thus again holding the judges dependent upon the will and pleasure of the legislature, as to a considerable portion of their salaries.

The late attempt to reinstate them on firm constitutional ground, by a bill reported to the house of representatives by their committee, having failed, it has become more expedient than ever to give the question a thorough consideration.

In favour of temporary grants it has been said, the words, "*ascertained and established by standing laws*," may be satisfied by a grant of salaries of a *fixed value*, by any law, though temporary; because a temporary law is a standing law during its continuance, as much as a law without limitation of time, or a perpetual law, which may be repealed at any time. It is conceived, the legislature may have proceeded upon such ground in making a portion of the judges' salaries to depend upon their temporary grants, or, in other words, upon their mere will and pleasure, whether *such* portion thereof shall be continued by another law, when the last temporary grant shall have expired by lapse of time. But the term "*established*" cannot be so satisfied. For to establish, according to the best lexicographers, is "*to settle firmly, to fix unalterably*." The effect is essentially different; the one places the judges in a state of dependence, the other in a state of independence conformably to the duties imposed upon them by the constitution, as well as its express declarations.

Besides, the meaning of the term "*established*" seems to be

cleared of all doubt in the 2 chap. sect. 1. art. 13, which declares "*PERMANENT and honourable salaries shall be established by law for the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court*."

Some light may be thrown upon this question by adverting to the history of the judicial department of England, previous and subsequent to the revolution of 1688. Before that period, it is well known, that the commissions of the judges of Westminster Hall were generally "*durante bene placito*," during the king's pleasure, and that they were likewise dependent upon him for their salaries. These were grievances deeply felt. And to rid the judges of that dependence upon the king, and the nation of the evils they had suffered under the undue influence of the crown over them, it was enacted by 12 & 13 W. 3. c. 2, "*That judges' commissions be made quamdiu se bene gesserint, and their salaries ascertained and ESTABLISHED*."

The meaning of the term *established* in that act cannot now be doubtful, when it is an unquestionable fact, that their salaries have ever since the passing of that act (now more than a century) been considered as thereby fixed and secured to the judges, in such a manner as to leave them wholly independent of the king or crown in that particular.

Now, the terms made use of in the 29th art. of our Declaration of Rights being *precisely* the same, viz. "*The judges of the Supreme Judicial Court shall have honourable salaries ascertained and ESTABLISHED*," it is presumed they were adopted for a similar purpose, and that they ought to receive the same construction in both cases or instruments. And as the judges



in England were thereby rendered independent of the crown with respect to their salaries, as well as their *continuance* in office, so the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, by fair construction, are and ought to be, in virtue of our constitution, equally independent, in that respect, of the legislative department of our government.

That article indeed subjoins the words "*by standing laws.*" These surely cannot weaken the former, but if they operate at all, they can operate only to strengthen our construction, and so to explain them, as to banish every idea of temporary grants, in whole or in part.

Further, the abovementioned article provides, "*If it shall be found that any of the salaries so established, are INSUFFICIENT, they shall from time to time be ENLARGED, as the General Court shall think proper.*"

May it not be asked, why the General Court were authorised only to *enlarge* the salaries so established, unless the constitution intended the judges should be independent of the legislature, with respect to their salaries, when once granted? And why was it not left, as in the case of other officers, to the legislature to make such grants from time to time, as they should think fit, to *reduce*, as well as to *enlarge* them?

Is it then consistent with the freedom and independence of the judges contemplated, as I expect to shew, by the constitution, that the legislature should grant a portion of their salaries permanently, that is, without limitation of time, and when this portion is found to be insufficient, to enlarge it by annual or temporary grants?

Such, however, has been the state of dependence in which, if I

may be allowed the expression, the jealousy of the legislature (perhaps countenanced by the people themselves) has thought fit to hold this feeble and unprotected branch of our government.

But even this dependence of the judges upon the will of the legislature, for the continuance or the renewal of their temporary grants, when expired by the lapse of time, is not the worst of their present condition.

A recent instance (the first of the kind) of the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Judicial Court, (Bradbury) by the Governour, with the consent of the Council, upon the address of both houses of the Legislature, because, *by the act of God*, he was rendered incapable of discharging the duties of his office; will change (if permitted to stand as a precedent) the tenure of the office, from an office during good behaviour, that is, an office for life, determinable on misbehaviour only, to an office at the will of those great branches of our government.—Now,

Whether this state of dependence of the supreme judicial department is consonant to the constitution of the commonwealth, or established legal decisions upon offices holden during good behaviour, is the question remaining to be considered, and demands a deliberate consideration. The subject not only affects the interest of the judges, but, if the declarations of our constitution are to be taken as true, involves in it the highest and most important rights of every citizen.

On the ground of good behaviour a judge ought always to stand; and I still believe that to be strong, legal, and constitutional ground.

*Legal ground*, because an office,



during good behaviour, hath uniformly been adjudged an office for life, determinable on misbehaviour only.\*

*Constitutional ground*, because the Declaration of Rights (art. 29) declares, "*It is essential to the preservation of the rights of every individual, his life, liberty, property, and character, that there be an impartial interpretation of the laws, and administration of justice.*"—That "*it is the right of every citizen to be tried by judges as free, impartial, and independent as the lot of humanity will admit.*"—That "*it is therefore not only the best policy, but for the security of the rights of the people and of every*

*citizen, that the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court should hold their offices AS LONG AS THEY BEHAVE THEMSELVES WELL.*"—Again it is declared (chap. 3, art. 1) that, "*all judicial officers shall hold their offices DURING GOOD BEHAVIOUR, excepting such concerning whom there is different provision made in this constitution.*"

And no different provision is therein made respecting the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court. The same article further declares, "*the tenure that all judicial officers shall by law have in their offices, shall be expressed in their respective commissions.*" †

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\* *Note, No. I.*

See the Case of Harcourt vs. Fox (1. Show. 516) in King's Bench, 5. W. & M. 1693 (about seven years before that statute). In which all the judges gave their opinions seriatim, That where an office is granted "*to execute the same for so long time only as he shall well demean himself in the office,*" is an estate for life, determinable upon the misbehaviour of the officer. Justice Eyres asks, (522) Who will deny that to have been an estate for life?—And Justice Gregory says, (523) "*If these words had been annexed to the grant of any other office in Westminster Hall, without all question the grantee had been an officer for life. The clerk of the peace being an officer relating to the execution of the law, his office must be governed by those rules that govern other officers of like nature. He should be removeable upon no other cause*" (meaning than misbehaviour in his office).—Justice Dolbin says, (525) "*If any office be granted to a man to enjoy so long as he shall behave himself well in it, no one will doubt but the grantee hath an estate for life in the office.*"

Lord Chief Justice Holt says, (531) The words themselves "*for so long time only as he shall behave himself well in the office,*" in their natural and proper extent, do signify an estate for life. If the word *only* had been left out, then it had been so indefinite a limitation,

that no man, I think, would have doubted; for my part, I should not have made the least question, but that it was an estate for life. To encourage him (the officer) in the faithful execution of the office (534) they settle the estate, so as to put him out of fear of losing it for any thing but his own misbehaviour in it. And the word *only* he considers makes no difference. Holt adds, (535, 6) "*The design of parliament was, that men should have places not to hold precariously, or determinable upon will and pleasure, but have a certain durable estate, that they might act in them without fear of losing them; we all know it, and our places as judges are so settled, ONLY DETERMINABLE UPON MISBEHAVIOUR.*"

This judgment was affirmed in the House of Lords. See 1. Ld. Raym. 161. See Note No. 3 throughout.

† *Note, No. II.*

Before our revolution, under the province charter, the judges were nominated and appointed by the governours, by and with the advice and consent of the council, and an entry thereof was made in the council books, and each judge had a commission in the king's name, under the province seal. But neither in the record of the nomination and appointment, nor in the commission was there any mention made of the estate the judge had in his office. Whether he was to hold the office during his good behaviour in it, or during pleasure only.



And the commission of a judge of the Supreme Judicial Court is, "to have and to hold the office, with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments to the same of right appertaining, DURING GOOD BEHAVIOUR."

Can words more clearly express the estate which a judge holds in his office?—Thus under the sanction of the constitution, of law, and of the publick faith, a judge of the Supreme Court may, I conceive, rightfully claim an estate in his office for life determinable, like all such estates, by his misbehaviour only.†

But I have understood the late removal was rested on a paragraph which immediately follows that last cited, viz. "*Provided nevertheless, the Governour, with the consent of the Council, may remove them* (judicial

The governour, who made the appointment, held his office during the pleasure of the king. A question arose which of those estates the judge had in his office. To do away all uncertainty of this kind, our constitution declares they shall hold their offices during good behaviour; and further, that the *tenure*, by which they hold their offices, shall be expressed in their respective commissions.

† *Note, No. III.*

During the reigns of the Stuarts, as well as before, some of the judges were appointed during good behaviour, and others during pleasure. When they were appointed during good behaviour, tho' the kings arbitrarily forbade their exercising their office and withheld their salaries, they were nevertheless considered as continuing in their office, even where the appointment of another had been made. "Sir John Walter, (says Sir Thos. Raymond) a man of profound learning and of great integrity and courage, was appointed lord chief baron by patent 1 Car. *Quamdiu se bene gesserit*, (during good behaviour,) being in the king's displeasure, and commanded that he should forbear the exercising his judicial place in court, never after exercised his place in court. And because he had that office *quamdiu se bene gesserit*, he would not leave his

officers) *upon the address of both houses of the legislature.*

This proviso is general; it points out no cause or ground of removal. Is it therefore to be so construed as to authorise the removal of a judge of the Supreme Judicial Court, without assigning any cause or ground of removal, or by assigning any cause or ground other than misbehaviour in the judge? This is the important question—and I think it must be answered in the negative—1st. Because it would otherwise depend upon the mere will and pleasure of the other branches of our government, whether a member of the Supreme Judicial Department should be removed from his office, and his estate therein vacated and annulled, without any default in himself.

place, nor surrender his patent, without a *scire facias* to shew *what cause* there was to *determine* his patent, or to *forfeit* it; so that he *continued* chief baron until the day of his death.—Cro. Car. 203. Justice Archer was removed by Char. II. from sitting in the court of Common Pleas. But the judge having his patent to be judge *quamdiu se bene gesserit*, refused to surrender his patent without a *scire facias*, and *continued* justice of the court, though prohibited to sit there, and in his place Sir William Ellis was sworn. See Sir Tho. Raym. Rep. 217. Rushworth says, "Mr. Sargeant Archer, (now living) notwithstanding his removal, still enjoys his patent, being *quamdiu se bene gesserit*, and receives a share in the profits of that court, as to fines, and other proceedings, by virtue of his said patent, and his name is used in all those fines, &c. as a judge of that court. Hence it would seem, the king or his cabinet, conscious that the words, *during good behaviour* in an office, gave a life estate in it, determinable only upon misbehaviour, and the removals being made arbitrarily, without any such cause, it was not thought expedient to bring a *scire facias* to annul the patent, but to punish learned and upright judges by withholding their salaries only, and forbidding their exercising the duties of their office.



2. Because it would be sticking to the *letter* of a single detached paragraph of the constitution, and violating an established rule of construction of every law, or instrument, viz. that every part shall have its operation, if by any possibility it can; and no part be rejected unnecessarily. *Ex antecedentibus & consequentibus fit optima interpretatio.*

3. Because it endangers that *impartial* interpretation of the laws, and administration of justice, which the constitution declares "*is essential to the preservation of the rights of every individual, his life, liberty, property, and character.*"

4. Because it is irreconcilable with the declared right of every citizen, to be tried by judges as free, impartial, and independent "*as the lot of humanity will admit.*"

5. Because it lays the Judicial Department prostrate before the legislative and executive departments; and destroys that barrier, which the constitution has erected between them and the citizen individually considered.

6. Because such a construction of this proviso is also repugnant to the express declarations, positive provision, and the manifest scope and design of the constitution to establish a Judicial Department, free, impartial, and independent, as well as against the clear legal tenure of the office as expressed (according to the requisition of the constitution) in the commissions of the judges, viz. "*to have and to hold the office, with all the powers, privileges, and emoluments to the same of right appertaining, DURING GOOD BEHAVIOUR.*"

7. Because, to give the proviso a construction which shall extend it to any other cause or ground of removal than misbehaviour in the judges, would be to make the con-

stitution declare they *shall* hold their offices during good behaviour, that is, shall have a freehold or life estate in them, but shall nevertheless be removable at the mere will and pleasure of the other branches of our government.—A language I am unable to reconcile.

Our constitution was drawn up by the most eminent lawyers, statesmen, and politicians of the commonwealth, who saw the propriety, who felt the necessity, of establishing that department, "*whose duty it is to decide on the life, liberty, property, and character of their fellow citizens,*" upon firm and independent ground: "to the end that our's should be a government of laws and not of men." They thoroughly comprehended the force and legal effect of the words "*during good behaviour,*" when they respect the tenure of an office. They were not unacquainted with the mischiefs and oppression endured by the people of England, which resulted from the dependence of the judges, both as to their salaries and their continuance in office, upon the will of the king.\* They saw the judges and the people relieved from so dangerous and degrading a condition, by this single concise paragraph of the statute of William, "that judges' commis-

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\* *Note, No. IV.*

In the remonstrance presented to the king by the House of Commons, in 1641, they say in art. 38, "Judges have been put out of their places for refusing to do against their oaths and consciences: Others have been so awed, that they durst not do their duties, and the better to hold the rod over them, the clause *Quamdiu se bene gesserit*, or during good behaviour, was left out of their patents, and the clause, *Durante bene placito*, or during pleasure, inserted." See 2 Rapin's Hist. p. 392. Before this, in 1640, the House of Lords addressed the king on the same subject. 2 Mac. Hist. 440.



sions be made *during good behaviour*, and their salaries *ascertained and established*." And they have adopted these very terms into our constitution. Can their design, then, be doubtful in doing this?

The judges of England do not now rest even upon the salutary provision of that statute. For although they were thereby secured as to their salaries, and continuance in office, during their good behaviour: Yet on the demise of the crown, or, in plain English, on the death of the king, or within six months after their commissions (which run in the name of the king for the time being) ceased, and they were liable to be displaced by the new sovereign. Even this degree of dependence has been taken away.

"In March, 1761," says the British historian,\* "the king (Geo. the 3d) proposed a step for securing the independency of the judges, which was justly admired as an eminent proof of his candour, moderation, and publick spirit. To the parliament he explained his purpose in the following manner :... "Upon granting new commissions to the judges, the present state of their offices fell naturally under consideration. In consequence of the act of Wm. 3d. their commissions have been made during their good behaviour; but notwithstanding that wise provision, their offices have determined upon the demise of the crown, or at the expiration of six months afterwards, in every instance of that nature which has happened."

"I look," says the king, "upon the independency and uprightness of the judges of the land, as essential to the impartial administration of justice, as one of the best secu-

rities to the rights and liberties of my loving subjects, and as most conducive to the honour of the crown; and I come now to recommend this interesting object to the consideration of parliament, in order that such further provision may be made, for securing the judges in the enjoyment of their offices, during their good behaviour, *notwithstanding any such demise*, as shall be most expedient. I must desire of you, in particular, that I may be enabled to grant, and *establish* upon the judges, such salaries as I may think proper, so as to be absolutely secured to them, during the continuance of their commissions."

This was accordingly done by an act of parliament, "whereby," the historian adds, "the independency of the bench was secured, and the persons entrusted with the administration of justice, were effectually emancipated from all undue influence of the crown."

I have cited these proceedings more at large, because every one, who will take the trouble to compare them with the language of our constitution, will perceive they were under the view of its framers, and that they contemplated the same independency of the Judicial Department of the other branches of our government, which those proceedings did of the king. I cite them not as authorities, but for the purpose of explaining our own constitution, when it adopts similar terms and ideas.

What a noble spectacle do these proceedings exhibit to our view.— A monarch, voluntarily going into parliament, to request them to take from the crown one of its unquestionable prerogatives, because the exercise of it might possibly be productive of injustice and oppression to his subjects, by making the

\* Cormick's Hist. Geo. 3d. ch. 1. §. 27.



judges dependent upon the heir apparent for their continuance in office, after the death of the king?

If it be asked for what purpose the above proviso is introduced into the constitution, it may be answered first negatively, not to do away, and render null and void, other parts of it, the meaning of which is clear and certain.

To guard against abuses in the Judicial Department there are two modes provided in the constitution, in which a judge may be removed from his office—First, on conviction before the senate, on the impeachment of the house of representatives, for misconduct and maladministration *in his office*. But the senate can sustain an impeachment only for *official* misconduct or maladministration. Yet a judge may be guilty of misbehaviour other than official, utterly inconsistent with his publick character. For example, he may be guilty of crimes which would render him infamous in the eye of the law, or he may become otherwise openly and grossly immoral in his life and conduct. Such would be strong instances of misbehaviour, and afford just grounds of removal from office. But the constitution had made no provision for any other than official misbehaviour—for it had declared only, “That the senate shall be a court, with full authority to hear and determine all impeachments made by the house of representatives, against any officer or officers of the commonwealth, for misconduct and maladministration *in their offices*.”—Chap. 1. sect. 2. art. 8.

This proviso for the removal of a judge, by the Governour with the consent of the Council, upon the address of both houses of the Legislature, might therefore well be intended for such like *unofficial* mis-

behaviour. Or possibly (though I doubt it much) that either mode might be pursued, as, according to existing circumstances, the legislature might think best. The cause or ground of removal, however, in either case, always to remain substantially of the same nature, viz. misbehaviour, and proceeding in like manner from the judge himself; and not other and variant, depending upon the mode which may happen to be adopted to affect the removal.

This construction seems to comport with the requisition of the statute establishing this court, viz. that the judges of it shall be “learned in the law, and of *sobriety of manners*.” Giving it this construction, leaves every other part of the constitution its full and proper operation. It secures to the judge his necessary independence of character, and his legal estate in his office, viz. an estate determinable on misbehaviour only. And, what is infinitely of more importance to the community, it frees him from all undue influence in the interpretation of the laws, and administration of justice. It secures to every citizen his declared “*right to be tried by judges as free, impartial, and independent as the lot of humanity will admit*.” And it may be said, as in the language of our constitution, “It is therefore not only the best policy, but for the security of the rights of the people, and of every citizen, that the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court should hold their offices *as long as they behave themselves well*.”

This proviso is evidently taken from the abovementioned act of William III., which enacts that “judges’ commissions be made *Quamdiu se bene gesserit*, and their salaries ascertained and es-



tablished ; *but upon address of both houses of parliament it may be lawful to remove them.*"

The object of this statute was not to give any new power to the parliament, respecting the removal of the judges, but to make them independent of the king, and to point out when only it should be lawful for him to remove a judge ; viz. upon the address of both houses of parliament.

Every lawyer knows the power of parliament is so transcendent and absolute, (1. Bl. Com. 160, 161) that it cannot be confined either for causes or persons within any bounds. That it can do every thing that is not naturally impossible. The meaning of which is, that there is no existing authority to control its acts or doings. And therefore, as is observed, " If by any means a misgovernment should any way fall upon it, the subjects of the kingdom are left without all manner of remedy." For, as the same writer observes, " so long as the English constitution lasts, we may venture to affirm, that the power of parliament is absolute and without control."

And I venture to affirm, that so long as the constitution of the state shall last, that the power of our legislature is neither absolute nor without control, that it possesses not full sovereign power in *all* cases ; but, on the contrary, as it is created by the constitution, so its powers and authorities are thereby marked out and circumscribed. The people have therein said to *that*, as well as to the other branches of our government, hitherto shalt thou come, and no further. Besides pointing out many particular limitations and restrictions, which they may not constitutionally overleap, it declares generally, " The legislative depart-

ment shall never exercise the executive and judicial powers, or either of them." It gives full power and authority to make, ordain, and establish all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, &c. but it leaves not this important power without restriction, for it adds, "*so as the same be not repugnant or contrary to this constitution.*"

It is a possible case, the legislature may inadvertently overleap their bounds, that they might do an act purely executive or judicial. If such a case should happen, are the citizens, whose rights and interests may be thereby affected, left, as the subjects in England, without all manner of remedy ? Or have they a constitutional right to resort for redress to the supreme judicial department ? But,

If this be the constitutional mode, and that it is, several decisions of that court have determined, and fully relieved the parties aggrieved ; I ask, can the citizen look for " an impartial interpretation of the laws and administration of justice," if the judges are dependent upon the body of whose act he complains, not only for their salaries, but even for their continuance in office ? Will it answer to tell him, that, notwithstanding such things, his declared constitutional right " to be tried by judges as free, impartial, and independent as the lot of humanity will admit," remains unimpaired to him ?

I might go on to put many more questions touching this subject, so important to every citizen, which would not require any answer from me. But I forbear. The subject is of a delicate nature, and my sole object is to call my fellow citizens in general to a calm, deliberate reflection upon it, before



precedents are too firmly established to be overthrown or changed. But,

If this subject does not engage the attention of the people, if it has become a maxim among them, that their representatives can do no wrong, either intentionally, or through error of judgment, then all the consequences of a depend-

ent judiciary must be endured by them. They have a right to bring this subject again before the legislature by instructions to their representatives, when they shall think fit. This is a constitutional and a peaceable mode, whenever they think their rights or their liberties have been brought into question by the acts of former legislatures.

*For the Anthology.*

## ORIGINAL LETTERS

FROM AN AMERICAN TRAVELLER IN EUROPE TO HIS FRIENDS IN THIS COUNTRY.

[We congratulate our readers on the opportunity of perusing the series of letters, now commenced. We thank the writer for enhancing the value of our Miscellany by these communications; and we know the publick will thank him for allowing us to render them partakers of a pleasure and benefit, which has been hitherto confined to a few.]

### LETTER FIRST.

*Florence, February 12, 1805.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IN a city which has given birth, employment, or burial to so many illustrious men, my friends have a right to expect that I should say something. If I have not collected any new traits in their characters; at least I ought to be able to say, whether like prophets they have died without honour in their own country, as it is certain many of them lived in it without comfort. I ought to say, whether, where, and when, their country has erected brazen or marble monuments to the memory of men, whom other nations have agreed to place among the most distinguished of mankind. Few cities can boast of having enrolled more illustrious persons among their citizens, than Florence. Cosmo and Lorenzo di Medici; Leo X. of the same il-

lustrious stock; Dante; Torricelli; Galileo; Michael Angelo, or Agnolo; Machiavel; Americus Vespucius, have all of them, in their various departments, contributed to create a splendour around this city, before celebrated for the early revival, and since, for the unremitted encouragement, of the fine arts. In the church of Santa Croce they have erected so many monuments to the distinguished geniuses of Italy, that it has been very properly called the 'Westminster Abbey' of Florence. In visiting these testimonies of gratitude to the dead, or rather these splendid proofs of the vanity of the living, we are irresistibly led to look more accurately into their biography, than when we consider them at a distance; and although I have no doubt that you are in general acquainted with the characters of these illustrious men,



yet it may afford you an hour's amusement to retrace some anecdotes and traits in their history. I know of no man in ancient or modern days, whose fate was more extraordinary than that of Galileo. You well know the opposition which he met with while alive in propagating those doctrines which all men, since he is dead, concur to acknowledge to be correct.

Viviani, who styles himself his last pupil, was so impressed with his merits, that, whilst he did not dare openly to erect a mausoleum to his memory, he built a large palace, in the front of which he placed the bust of this philosopher, and in the ornaments of the façade he contrived to introduce his most important discoveries. Not content with this, he ordered by his will, that a monument should be erected, which was afterwards executed in 1733, and placed in the church of Santa Croce, opposite to that of Michael Agnolo. It is a superb marble sarcophagus, supported by Astronomy and Geometry, the sister sciences to which Galileo was most attached.

The execution of the honourable intentions of Viviani was suspended for a long time by the continuance of the same absurd prejudices, which had embittered the life of Galileo.

This great man, truly philosophick, if ever man deserved the title, had encountered all the jealousy and persecution, which men, superiour to their own age, are wont to experience.

His works had been condemned by the inquisition. Pursued himself, and thrown into prison, after six years confinement, he was not permitted to come out till he had abjured what all philosophers now know to be correct, as to the revolution of the earth around the sun.

Having survived this humiliation, he died in 1642, at the age of 78 years; his labours, his merit, his distinguished pupils, the favour even of his sovereign, his unmerited sufferings, could not procure him respite even in his last moments. Bigotry and superstition, the offspring of ignorance, were leagued against him. It was solemnly debated in the ecclesiastical courts, whether he could dispose of his goods by testament, and whether the church would grant him christian sepulture. This last point was settled against him, and being suspected of having relapsed into his former *errors*, of the rotundity and revolution of the earth, he was, as a heretick, interred in profane earth. It required all the credit and wealth of Viviani to erect in the midst of Florence a monument to his memory. It was afterwards decided by the grave theologians, that his ashes might be removed to sacred ground, but without any mark of distinction or honour, and it was not till after a solemn judicial decision, that they were permitted to place his remains in the monument designed to cover them. There does not remain (says a writer) any trace of the theological hatred against this great man, except an index of *books prohibited*, which was renewed under the pontificate of Benedict XIV. in 1758. The dialogue, which constituted his chief crime, together with the works of Bacon, Copernicus, Kepler, Descartes, and Foscarini, pupil of Galileo, were by that pope *still* proscribed.

It would be a mistake to suppose that Galileo brought this treatment upon himself by imprudence or bravado. To judge by a letter which he wrote to the archduke Leopold, when he sent him the



first telescopes which he had invented, he was far from shewing an insolent temper. This letter was accompanied by a memoir upon the causes of the tides, considered on the Copernican system, and which also was afterwards condemned by the inquisition.—Galileo says in this letter, as nearly as I can understand the Italian, “I happened to write this, while the theological lords were debating on the prohibition of the books of Copernicus, and respecting the opinion advanced in said books, and which I have for some time believed to be true, unless it should please these gentlemen to forbid the said books to be read, and to declare false and contrary to holy writ, the aforesaid opinions. Now I know, that it is my duty to obey and believe the decisions of my superiours, who are much better informed than I am, and to whose intelligence my inferiour genius cannot reach. I consider then this writing, which I send you, as a piece of poetry, or rather a dream, and as such I beg your excellency to receive it ; but as every day we find poets appreciating their own fantasies, so I have the vanity to have some esteem of this opinion of mine.” I was pleased with the foregoing trait of Galileo, which I have just met with, and I could not refuse myself the pleasure of giving it to you.

The fickle and persecuting spirit of the Florentines was not confined to Galileo. Their illustrious poet Dante felt the effects of it. Banished from Florence by his ungrateful countrymen, he retired to Ravenna, where he died in 1341. After lying there a long time unhonoured and unknown, Bembo, the father of the cardinal, that famous patron of letters, erected a monument to the memory of Dante,

and inscribed upon it the following memorable epitaph.

‘*Exigua tumuli, Dantes, hic sorte jace-  
bas*  
‘*Squallenti nulli cognito pænè situ*  
‘*At nunc marmoreo subnixus conderis*  
*arcu*  
‘*Omnibus et cultu splendidiore nites*  
‘*Nimirum, Bembus, Musis incensis*  
*Etruscis,*  
‘*Hoc tibi, quem imprimis hæ coluere,*  
*dedit.”*

The Florentines afterwards repented of this cruelty to Dante, and by a publick decree rendered a just homage to the memory of the injured poet. The decree declares, that from the publick treasury “there should be erected to him in the cathedral and in a distinguished place an artificially sculptured monument with such statues and insignia, as might best contribute to ornament it.” They have also applied repeatedly to the inhabitants of Ravenna for permission to remove his ashes to Florence, but they have uniformly refused to part with the honourable deposit.

The celebrated Michael Agnolo Buonarotti was of the Florentine school, and, considered in all the points of his character, may be rated as the first genius, who has appeared since the revival of letters. They attribute his early taste for sculpture to his having been nursed in a village, where the greater part of the people were of that profession. The effect however of such an accidental circumstance would have been very unimportant, if the Genius of the fine arts had not breathed into him a portion, and a large one, of her celestial fire. His wonderful success, and the vast variety and extent of his knowledge, may however be fairly attributed in some degree to the number of years which he was



enabled to devote to the exercise of his peculiar talents. He was born in 1475 and died in 1564, and continued the active pursuit of his profession till his decease. He was actually employed in erecting his *chef d'œuvre* in architecture, St. Peter's, at the moment of his death. At fourteen years of age he was placed with a celebrated sculptor, and at sixteen his works were considered far superiour to those of his master.

So universal was the genius of Michael Agnolo, that it has long been disputed, whether he excelled most as a Painter—Sculptor—or Architect.

In the former, his *Day of Judgment* in the Sixtine Chapel in the Vatican—in Sculpture, his *Moses* in the church of St. Peter in Vinculo—and in Architecture, the Dome of St. Peter's, are considered as his *chef d'œuvres*.

I have no hesitation in saying, (as I have no reputation to lose as a connoisseur, because I make no pretensions to the character) that I think, his architectural talents were most pre-eminent. As a painter, although he may have been a good composuist according to the rules of art, there is a harshness and coarseness extremely disagreeable to me in the character of his personages.

I know that this very quality is said to constitute the excellence of his manner, which consists in boldness and force, grandeur and sublimity, rather than grace and softness. But it is precisely his *manner* which displeases me; he makes every man an Hercules, and every woman an Amazon. I am told, and I believe, that his anatomy is perfect, and I confess that his pieces appear to me rather fitted for lessons to a young surgeon,

than to allure and captivate the eye of Taste.

In sculpture this manner of Michael Agnolo is less unpleasant. Unless the artist is forming an Adonis or a Venus, we have no objection to see the muscles well pronounced in a statue, and to have the form vigorous and masculine; and it must be admitted that few if any of the modern artists can compare with this great master. I cannot say however that I think Bernini much inferiour to him; but in architecture I take it to be conceded, that Michael Agnolo stands without a rival among the moderns.

There is one circumstance in his *Day of Judgment* which rigid criticks might censure, but which poets and painters will perhaps forgive, and that is, his blending the heathen mythology with the doctrines of revelation, and this too upon so solemn and affecting a subject. In the back ground he represents the Supreme Being, with our Saviour at his right hand, with all the sublimity which the canvas could display: still I think it a subject too awful for the pencil, and I have never myself been satisfied with the highest attempts to delineate that Being, whom "eye hath not seen." In the fore ground we see Charon with his boat, ferrying over the Styx the souls of the departed. It must be acknowledged, that this is a strange confusion of sacred and profane ideas, and, with due respect to the memory of that great man, and to the piety of the popes who permitted it to be executed in their chapel, it appears to me to be little short of blasphemy.

There was a piece of satire also in this piece, which I still more wonder how the *Sacred College* could forgive. Michael Angelo



had been offended with a cardinal, and he revenged himself by placing the head of his Eminence upon the shoulders of one of the damned in purgatory.

A monument has been erected to this artist in the church of Santa Croce; but of what avail are monuments and funeral honours to a man, who will live forever in his works? *St. Peter's* is the mausoleum of Michael Agnolo, and it is a prouder one, and will endure longer, than those which the vanity of Augustus or Adrian caused to be erected to perpetuate their memories.

As Florence had the honour to give Michael Agnolo his education, so she can boast a greater number of his distinguished works. The chapel of the Medici is full of them, and every church has some statue at least of one of his pupils, all of whom were much distinguished. One proof often cited of the superiority of this great master is, that he left two statues incomplete, which no succeeding artist has dared to attempt to finish. One of them is the Virgin bewailing the death of our Saviour, and the other the head of *Brutus*. Under the last, cardinal Bembo, to show his detestation of Brutus' crime, wrote the following couplet, with which Dr. Moore, who pretended to be a great stickler for civil liberty, finds great fault.

Dum Bruti effigiem, Michael de marmore fingit,  
In mentem sceleris venit et abstinuit.

For my part, I fully agree with the cardinal; for no man, who recollects the obligations of Brutus to Cæsar, can fail to detest the assassin of his own patron and friend.

I cannot close this letter without making a remark, that this age of Michael Agnolo, and of the Italian painters, was, in my opinion, as splendid as the Augustan, or the age of Louis XIV. Peter Perugine, the master of Raphael, Michael Agnolo, Raphael, Andrea del Sarto, Giulio Romano, Caravaggio, Correggio, the most eminent men who have appeared since the revival of letters, in architecture, sculpture, and painting, and whose chef d'œuvres still constitute the most valuable possessions of the countries which they honoured by their residence, were all cotemporaries. What a brilliant age! what a galaxy of talents!! Where shall we find its equal since the age of Augustus? If to this period, we add the age of Louis XIV. and of Queen Anne, what pretence is there to say, as some of our philosophers do, that we have improved upon those who have gone before us, especially in the more refined parts of literature?

Adieu.

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*For the Anthology.*

### SILVA, No. 23.

*In sylvam ferre lignum.*

#### AMERICAN ELOQUENCE.

AS an orator, Mr. Randolph is far from contemptible. But he mistakes his powers. He ought to feel that Pitt's lightning singes his fingers; he ought to know that

Vol. IV. No. 1.

E

Burke's thunder deafens his ears. —Randolph's "thunder rumbles from the mustard bowl;" his lightning flashes from the warming-pan. There's no harm, said Dr. Johnson, in a fellow's rattling a



rattle-box, only don't let him think he thunders ; and unless his bed suffers from it, one might say there's no harm in a fellow's whirling a lintstock, only don't let him think he lightens.—Eloquence, or, in its definition, the power of persuading men against their passions and interests, of convincing them against their prejudices and opinions, is a rare gift ; and so rich, because rare, that neither Greece, nor Rome, nor England, boasts more than two orators. Burke and Pitt are scarcely inferior to Demosthenes and Æschines ; Æschines and Demosthenes are hardly superior to Hortensius and Cicero ; the names of these men will never die. Who will say that since \*\*\*, in the senate, softened opposition to indifference, and \*\*\*\*\*, at the bar, reasoned prejudice to candour, that in America the human powers dwindle and weaken to dwarfish, infantine insignificance and imbecility ? The time will come, it must, it is fast approaching, when the rhetorical reasoning of a liberal, clear-sighted statesman, and the argumentative eloquence of an honest, open-hearted lawyer, will be acknowledged and applauded. The uncloying sweetness of \*\*\* will enchant, the overpowering strength of \*\*\*\*\* will astonish posterity.

—  
DR. JORTIN.

Dr. Jortin's is perhaps the happiest style in the English language. Not because rounded and laboured to bold relief and high elegance ; for of these qualities it has so very little, that his periods are rather meagre than full, rather negligent than polite ; but because his good feelings and sound doctrines flow clear and strong, in one blended current of powerful eloquence and lucid argument. Jortin's style

has nothing of the tarnished, tinsel finery, nothing of the awkward, affected hauteur of a tattered, trade-fallen courtesan ; the clear, pure colours of nature he never sullies by attempting to brighten the rose to a clearer red, to soften the lily to a purer white. Jortin's style is a shepherdess, simple and modest, neat without nicety, chaste without prudery. Innocence sparkles from her eyes ; sweetness trickles from her lips ; her cheek glows with health and love, her bosom heaves with hope and joy.

—  
IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND.

WHAT honours, what unwithering, immortal glories await the man, of whom it may be said, without exaggerated praise, *nihil fecit, nihil dixit, nihil sensit nisi laudandum* ! For the death of such a man our eyes are still wet with tears, our hearts still big with sighs.

.....Lycidas is dead, dead ere his prime  
Young Lycidas, and hath not left his peer.

But why tears, why sighs, for one who lived in purity, and died in peace ; who, from a world of misery and death, is now translated to a world of life and happiness—from restless sinfulness and bodily discord, to

That holy calm, that harmony of mind,  
Where purity and peace immingle charms.

His 'hope was full of immortality.' He breathed back to heaven a soul spotless as truth, sincere as love ; he died in "sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection." Such were the moral qualities of my friend. Of his intellectual powers, it is difficult to say which was superior ; his imagination, which seemed to glow with the pure, unmingled fire of genius, or his judg-



ment, which appeared to shine with the clear, unclouded light of intuition. He lived full of ambition,....he died full of honour. Those, who love and cherish virtue and piety, loved and cherished him; those who respect and reverence learning and genius, respected and revered him.

Ye vallies low, where the mild whis-  
pers rise  
Of shades and wanton winds, and gush-  
ing brooks,  
On whose fresh lap the swart star spare-  
ly looks,  
Throw hither all your quaint enamelled  
eyes  
That on the green turf suck the honied  
showers,  
And purple all the ground with vernal  
flowers.  
Bring the rathe primrose, that forsaken  
dies,  
The tufted crowtoe, and pale jessamine,  
The white pink and the pansy freakt  
with jet,  
The glowing violet,  
The musk-rose and the well-attir'd  
woodbine,  
With cowslips wan, that hang the pen-  
sive head,  
And every flower that sad embroidery  
wears;  
Bid amaranthus all his beauty shed,  
And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,  
To strow the laureat hearse where Ly-  
cid lies.

—  
NEQUID NIMIS.

LIBERAL curiosity should always be gratified; but that little, sneaking, bastard, pimping thing, which can unfold all my wishes, and tell to a farthing and syllable the amount of my estate and learning; such curiosity cannot be enough despised, or too often disappointed. Industry of this kind is worse than inaction, as dozing stupidity is better than maddening genius.

—  
FAITH—WORKS.

IF, as the learned and ingenious bishop Taylor asserts (and who unless grossly illiterate and stupid-

ly senseless will peremptorily deny a solemn, deliberate assertion, coming from a man of wide reading and deep thinking) if 'things practical are the hinges of immortality,' one may, without forfeiting his character for charity, ask, why at the present day so many sounding-boards serve only to return, in a drowsy, humming echo, an old opinion of some early hereticks, who, because faith is the centre, mother doctrine, and virtue of christianity, thought none of the sister, radiant virtues and doctrines worthy of notice or practice. If reduced to one of two answers (and more than two answers the question hardly admits) I should sooner ascribe this opinion, which indeed seems rather the odious soot-erkin of unthinking fatuity, than the hideous monster of un pitying malignity, to weakness of mind, which may be ingrained and is therefore excuseable; than to coldness of heart, which must be acquired, and is therefore unpardonable. Those who worship God from filial love, which is a warm, generous feeling, and softens by opening the heart, are anxious in some degree to merit reward by learning to do well; yet those who adore God from servile fear, which is a cold, narrow prejudice, and hardens by contracting the mind, are content at any rate to escape punishment by ceasing to do evil. The former class of christians combine sound faith and good works, and bring them to amicable co-operation; the latter (I hope I am not sacrilegious in applying the sacred name of christians to men, who seem ashamed to imitate the only imitable traits of their Saviour's character) separate them, and set at implacable opposition ardent benevolence and fervent piety.



## SPENSER.

HE whom Milton followed, and  
 Gladly beheld tho' but his utmost skirts  
 Of glory, and far off his steps adored—  
 (for Spenser astonishes as well as  
 delights)—such a poet ought not  
 to lie idle in a scholar's library.  
 Spenser combines the discrimina-  
 tive features of Homer and Virgil.  
 Homer is hardly more sublime  
 than Spenser; Spenser is almost  
 as beautiful as Virgil. "Vivo gur-  
 gite exundat" is a faint shadowy  
 image of a mind rich in learning  
 and full of genius. Spenser can-  
 not indeed frenzy unrepining pa-  
 tience to madness, he cannot soften  
 unrelenting obduracy to tender-  
 ness; but what is possible, he can  
 and does effect. He can and does  
 cheer the disconsolate and doubt-  
 ful mind to comfort and hope;  
 he can and does charm the sullen  
 and indifferent heart to love and  
 rapture. Such is the melting,  
 honied sweetness of Spenser, that,

secure

Of surfeit where full measure only  
 bounds  
 Excess,  
 I am never weary of reading the  
 Faëry Queen.

## PATRIOTISM.

"To serve bravely is to come halt-  
 ing off." These words of honest  
 Jack Falstaff, I once heard quoted  
 by a man, who, instead of acquir-  
 ing in the "morn and liquid dew  
 of youth," what he deserved, hon-  
 our and competence, is now in  
 "the twilight of sere age," wearing  
 out in neglect and penury the mis-  
 erable remnant of a life once res-  
 pectable and affluent. In that un-  
 natural, though perhaps necessary,  
 struggle, when, as yet hardly wean-  
 ed, and so feeble that we could not  
 even totter about in leading strings,

we tore ourselves from the warm  
 bosom and tender embraces of our  
 mother country, \*\*\*\*\*'s conduct  
 was open and direct; no reserva-  
 tion lurked in his mind, no equivoca-  
 tion fell from his tongue. We  
 have broken, said he, a sacred tie,  
 but my duty to my native soil is  
 more sacred than my obligations  
 arising from this violated union. I  
 will fight and bleed and die, to seal  
 the independence of my country.  
 Such were once, such are still the  
 feelings and opinions of a man,  
 who though at present in disgrace  
 and poverty, cheerfully expects,  
 and will hereafter gladly receive, a  
 rich and glorious reward. But  
 why in disgrace, why in poverty?  
 Because he loved truth with a  
 warmer affection than he courted  
 popular applause; because he hat-  
 ed guilt with a deeper aversion, than  
 he shunned publick contempt.—  
 And indeed, if our hands are clean,  
 if our integrity is clear and un-  
 questioned, what, in popular ap-  
 plause, can heighten affection for  
 it, to doating, drivelling fondness?  
 If our hearts are pure, if our hon-  
 our is fair and unsuspected, what,  
 in publick contempt, can exasper-  
 ate aversion from it, to trembling,  
 shuddering horror?

Publick contempt, what is it?  
 It is a dream, it is nothing. Who,  
 then, will fly from it, as from the  
 lowest misery? At worst, it is easi-  
 ly borne, and even under its coldest  
 frowns the warm smiles of hope,  
 and cheerful, brightening anticipa-  
 tion, are playing on our cheeks.

Popular applause, what is it?  
 It is the shadow of a dream, it is  
 less than nothing. Who, then,  
 will pant for it, as for the highest  
 happiness? At best, it is quickly  
 gone, and even under its warmest  
 caresses the cold tears of fear, and  
 dismal, darkening apprehension,  
 are stealing from our eyes.



IN MEMORIAM

*ARTHUR MAYNARD WALTER:*

BONI ;

JURIS, AC OMNIUM

RERUM,

LITERIS ATTINENTIUM,

SUPRA SUAM ÆTATEM,

VALDE PERITI.

ANNO DOMINI

MILLESIMO OCTINGENTESIMO SEPTIMO ;

ÆTATIS SUÆ

VICESIMO SEXTO ;

JANUARI

DIE SECUNDO,

SPLENDIDIOREM INIRE,

HANC VITAM RELIQUIT.

.....

Eheu, vos charum tam perdere sanguine junctos !

Eheu, vos comites miseros tam perdere fidum !

Eheu, vos Musas tristes tam perdere amicum !

Eheu, mundum infelicem tam perdere rectum !

Tristes dilectum sobolem plorate Camænæ !

Occidis infelix puer, ah ! memorande per ævum,

Nulla tuam poterit virtutem abolere vetustas.



---

## ORIGINAL POETRY.

---

*To the Editors of the Anthology.*

GENTLEMEN,

I enclose to you for publication NATHANIEL GARDNER'S Latin translation of Dr. Watts' ode on the *Nativity of Christ*. It is faithfully copied from the manuscript of that eccentric genius. He graduated at *Harvard College* in 1739, and was many years usher in the Latin school in Boston, under the celebrated LOVELL. He died in the year 1760. He was distinguished for his classical taste and acquirements, of which the lines, now communicated, are no unfavourable specimen. The letters S. W. probably indicate the person to whom the performance was addressed, but it is not known to whom they refer. The sentence in the introduction, which he left incomplete, *Tua carmina, &c.* cannot be fully explained. Perhaps it has reference to Virgil's

Tale tuum carmen nobis, divine poeta,  
Quale sopor—

for it appears that this elegant performance was a nocturnal exercise, in a time of invincible watchfulness. Yours,

PHILO-MUSE.

December 25, 1806.

—  
N. G. S. W. S. D. 1750.

Hæc ego, paucis abhinc noctibus, fugiente oculos Morphæo, in lectulo condidi. Pignus istud, exiguum utcunque, amoris et observantiæ, excipias, quæso. *Tua carmina, &c.* Vale.

### CARMEN WATSIANUM,

LATINIS NUMERIS DONATUM.

*Shepherds, rejoice, &c.*

*Gabriel.*

DEJECTA, O, tandem sustollite lumina læti,  
Et mala, Pastores, jam date vestra notis.  
Gaudia genti hominum cœlestis nuncius affert,  
Nascitur en! hodie, non peritura, salus.  
Sedibus his, felix, hodie succedit Iesus,  
Quem numen, Seraphûm flammea turba colunt.  
Urbes ingreditur jam nunc novus incola vestras,  
Nec tamen is regum more modoque venit.  
Non illum exornant Tyrio bis murice tinctæ  
Vestes; hunc circum regia nulla nitent.  
Vile Deo præsepe dedit cunabula blando,  
Hæc regum Regem sordida claustra tenent.  
Ite, O pastores! puerumque videte jacentem,  
Præsepe, en! solium est—en! comitesque boves.  
Ite, O pastores! puero date basia regi,  
Dum lætæ lachrymæ prosiliunt oculis.

*Poeta loquitur.*

Hæc cecinit Gabriel, divinâ voce, simulque  
Cœlestes turmæ, læta corona, canunt.



Et majora canunt psallunt ac altius ;\* et sic  
 Cantibus imposuit læta corona modum.

*Chorus Angelorum.*

Gloria summa Deo, nutu qui temperat orbes !  
 Rideat æternum pax quoque terra, tibi !  
 Ter genus humanum felix ! venit ecce ! Redemptor.  
 Quid sit Patris amor, hoc veniente, scies.

*Poeta loquitur.*

Quid ? chorus angelicus quum cantet talia lætus,  
 Gens ingrata hominum carmina nulla dabit ?  
 O, linguæ pereant, hærentes faucibus, ipsæ,  
 Si cessant laudes tot celebrare Dei.

*Chorus hominum.*

Gloria summa Deo, nutu qui temperat orbes !  
 Nosque suâ miseros qui recreavit ope.  
 Talem hominesque simul, Seraphesque canemus  
 Digna cani ambobus, nascitur ipsa salus.

*For the Anthology.*

## LINES, ADDRESSED TO A MOTHER,

ON THE DEATH OF TWO INFANTS,

19th September, 1803, and 19th December, 1806.

SURE, to the mansions of the blest,  
 When infant innocence ascends,  
 Some angel, brighter than the rest,  
 The spotless spirit's flight attends.

On wings of ecstasy they rise  
 Beyond where worlds material roll :  
 Till some fair sister of the skies  
 Receives the unpolluted soul.

There, at th' Almighty Father's hand,  
 Nearest the throne of living light,  
 The choirs of infant seraphs stand,  
 And dazzling shine, where all are bright.

Chain'd for a dreary length of years  
 Down to these elements below,  
 Some stain the sky-born spirit bears,  
 Contracted from this world of woe.

That inextinguishable beam,  
 With dust united at our birth,  
 Sheds a more dim, discolour'd gleam,  
 The more it lingers upon earth.

Clos'd in this dark abode of clay  
 The stream of glory faintly burns ;  
 Nor unobscur'd the lucid ray  
 To its own native fount returns.

But when the Lord of mortal breath  
 Decrees his bounty to resume,  
 And points the silent shaft of death,  
 Which speeds an infant to the tomb—

\* Originally written "*psalluntque sonoricus*," but those words crossed with the pen in the manuscript, and the following note is subjoined: "*nusquam, apud probos saltem auctores, occurrit vox ista, sonoricus ; sic corrige...psallunt ac altius.*"



No passion fierce, no low desire  
Has quench'd the radiance of the flame,  
Back to its God, the living fire  
Reverts, unclouded as it came.

Oh, Anna! be that solace thine:  
Let Hope her healing charm impart;  
And soothe, with melodies divine,  
The anguish of a mother's heart.

Oh! think the darlings of thy love  
Divested of this earthly clod,  
Amid unnumber'd saints above,  
Bask in the bosom of their God.

Of their *short* pilgrimage on earth  
Still tender images remain;  
Still, still they bless thee for their birth,  
Still, filial gratitude retain.

The days of pain, the nights of care,  
The bosom's agonizing strife,  
The pangs which thou for them didst bear,  
No! they forget them not with life.

Scarce could their germinating thought conceive  
While in this vale of tears they dwelt;  
Scarce their fond sympathy relieve  
The suff'rance thou for them hast felt.

But there the soul's perennial flower  
Expands in never-fading bloom;  
Spurns at the grave's poor transient hour,  
And shoots immortal from the tomb.

No weak, unform'd idea, there  
Toils, the mere promise of a mind;  
The tide of intellect flows clear,  
Strong, full, unchanging and refin'd.

Each anxious care, each rending sigh,  
That wrung for them the parent's breast,  
Dwells on remembrance in the sky,  
Amid the raptures of the blest.

O'er thee, with looks of love they bend,  
For thee the Lord of life implore;  
And oft from sainted bliss descend,  
Thy wounded quiet to restore.

Oft in the stillness of the night  
They smooth the pillow for thy bed:  
Oft, till the morn's returning light,  
Still watchful hover o'er thy head.

Hark! in such strains as saints employ,  
They whisper to thy bosom, Peace;  
Calm the perturbed heart to joy,  
And bid the streaming sorrow cease.

Then dry henceforth the bitter tear,  
Their part and thine inverted see!  
Thou wert *their* guardian angel here,  
They guardian angels now *to thee*.

January 12, 1807.



# THE BOSTON REVIEW

FOR

JANUARY, 1807.

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*Librum tuum legi & quam diligentissime potui annotavi, quæ commutanda, quæ eximenda, arbitrarer. Nam ego dicere vero assuevi. Neque ulli patientius reprehenduntur, quam qui maxime laudari merentur. PLIN.*

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## ARTICLE I.

*Epistles, odes, and other poems, by Thomas Moore, Esq.—Tanti non es, ais : sapis, Luperce. Philadelphia, John Watts. 1806. 8vo. pp. 306.*

THE lighter poetry of Mr. Moore, for which alone he is distinguished, is elegant, voluptuous, and profligate. It is not always well finished; the ideas are often indistinct, and the images obscure; but it is commonly highly polished, the versification is smooth, and the language brilliant. He may claim precedence to most of the minor poets of the present day; for though he has discovered no felicity of invention, and none of those other powers which constitute a bard of the higher rank, yet there is in his verses much of that fancy, which busies itself in properly adorning little things, much elegance of description, and much delicacy of expression, and sometimes of sentiment. To obtain this precedence, however, he has made a very dear sacrifice, for he has built his fame, as a poet, on the ruins of his reputation as a man, and written with no common disregard of decency and morality.

In the volume before us, there is a singular mixture of what none

can disapprove, with what very few will commend; of purity and foulness; of verses to seduce and verses to warn, of that lighter poetry, whose character we have given, together with odes, shewy without elegance, and cumbrous without sentiment; and satires, in the form of epistles, in which feeble thoughts are hardly supported by strong expression. If we view its different pieces in connection with each other, and with the character of the author, we find in it repentance without amendment, love without friendship, contempt without superiority, and pedantry without learning. Mr. Moore, in the preface, with a modesty, which every one knows how to estimate, says that he regrets having had leisure to write such trifles, and that he is induced to publish them by the liberal offers of his bookseller. As he is a young man, perhaps it would have been as well to have left us to believe that his vanity, and not his avarice, overcame his virtue.

Most of the poems, in this collection, were written during Mr. Moore's absence from Europe, on a visit to America. The first which it contains is an epistle to lord Strangford, which is fanciful and fond, and much superiour to



any one, of equal length, in the volume.

The short poem, which immediately succeeds this epistle, is untainted, beautiful, and holy. To the following stanzas we are willing to give unlimited praise :

I felt how the pure intellectual fire,  
In luxury loses its heavenly ray ;  
How soon in the ravishing cup of desire  
The pearl of the soul may be melted away.

And I prayed of that spirit, who light-  
ed the flame,  
That pleasure no more might its pu-  
rity dim ;  
And that sullied but little, or brightly  
the same,  
I might give back the gem, I had  
borrowed from him.

The thought was extatick, I felt as if  
heaven  
Had already the wreath of eternity  
shown,  
As if passion all chastened, and error  
forgiven,  
My heart had begun to be purely its  
own.

It is to be regretted, that the author of these stanzas should have employed his talents so ill as to write much of what follows in this collection. A few pages distant from the poem just mentioned, is "The Wedding Ring," which we forbear to publish.

Is it not strange, that the author, who could sit down and coolly compose, and afterward deliberately publish such a poem ; that he, who could thus endeavour (we do not say with what success) to seduce away taste and feeling from their natural alliance with virtue ; is it not strange, that he should have confidence to make, in another part of the same volume, the following observations ?

'The Abbé Raynal, in his prophetick admonitions to Americans, directing their attention very strongly to learned establishments, says, "When the youth

of a country are seen depraved, the nation is on the decline." I know not what the Abbé Raynal would pronounce of this nation now, were he alive to know the morals of the young students at Williamsburg ! But when he wrote, his countrymen had not yet introduced the "doctrinam deos spernentem" into America.' P. 141, note.

Mr. Moore ranks himself among the disciples of the old school of morality and politicks. We admit no such associates :

....."procul hinc, procul inde puella  
Lenonum, et cantus pernoctantis para-  
siti."

Passing over several poems, we come to a collection entitled "Odes to Nea," in one of which, describing Nea sleeping, there is the following passage of oriental luxury of description, and obscurity of similitude :

The broad banana's green embrace  
Hung shadowy round each tranquil  
grace ;

One little beam alone could win  
The leaves to let it wander in,  
And, stealing over all her charms,  
From lip to cheek, from neck to arms,  
It glanc'd around a fiery kiss,  
All trembling, as it went, with bliss !

Her eyelid's black and silken fringe  
Lay on her cheek, of vermil tinge,  
Like the first ebon cloud, that closes  
Dark on evening's heaven of roses !  
Her glances, though in slumber hid,  
Seem'd glowing through their ivory lid,  
And o'er her lip's reflecting dew  
A soft and liquid lustre threw,  
Such as, declining dim and faint,  
The lamp of some beloved saint  
Doth shed upon a flowery wreath,  
Which pious hands have hung beneath.  
P. 96.

It may be excused, perhaps, in a poet, to talk of a sun-beam trembling with bliss, but it conveys no image of beauty to describe the eye-lashes of his mistress, as laying on her cheek ; it is much more extravagant than fanciful, to tell of the dew of her lip reflecting



the lustre of her eye ; and it is not very consistent to make glances, hid in slumber, throw lustre on this reflecting dew.

Every thing, in Mr. Moore's poetry, is liable to be in love. In the following extract from an epistle to the Marchioness Dowager of Donegall, the appropriation of that quality is somewhat singular :

The morn was lovely, every wave was still,  
When the first perfume of a cedar-hill  
Sweetly awak'd us, and with smiling charms,  
The fairy harbour woo'd us to its arms.  
Gently we stole, before the languid wind,  
Through plantain shades, that like an awning twin'd  
And kiss'd on either side the wanton sails,  
Breathing our welcome to these vernal vales ;  
While far reflected o'er the wave serene  
Each wooded island shed so soft a green,  
What the enamour'd keel, with whispering play,  
Through liquid herbage seem'd to steal its way !  
P. 38.

This whispering, playful, enamoured keel, is a flight of imagination to which we scarcely recollect a parallel. We trust to be easily believed when we say, that Mr. Moore has seldom written worse ; though we might produce several passages, in some degree similar.

Mr. Moore's poetry is in general incorrect. In some "Lines written on leaving Philadelphia," which have appeared in several of our publick prints, there is the following stanza :

O nature ! though blessed and bright  
are thy rays,  
O'er the brow of creation enchant-  
ingly thrown,  
Yet faint are they all to the lustre,  
which plays  
In a smile from the heart, that is dearly  
our own.  
P. 193.

We readily admit, that there is nothing, however lovely or bright, but what is faint to the smile of affection ; but we do not know what is meant by the rays of nature, thrown over the brow of creation. Another stanza of this poem is the following :

But the lays of his boyhood had stolen  
to their ear,  
And they loved what they knew of  
so humble a name,  
And they told him with flattery, wel-  
come and dear,  
That they found in his heart some-  
thing sweeter than fame.

The meaning of this last line is not easily intelligible ; but in the concluding stanza, the author, with strange inaccuracy, talks of enjoying the endearments of society, while alone :

The stranger is gone—but he will not  
forget,  
When at home he shall talk of the  
toil he has known,  
To tell with a sigh what endearments  
he met,  
As he strayed by the wave of the  
Schuylkill alone.

Incorrect poetry may please at first reading, but the mind is unsatisfied and distrustful, and at every examination it appears more worthless. The lustre of a false brilliant, though it may deceive at first sight, is easily defaced, and Mr. Moore's "gems of poesy," are, many of them, false brilliants.

Among the remaining poems, there is none better than that, in which the author takes leave of our country, and anticipates his welcome at home, from which the following is an extract :

Well—peace to the land ! may the  
people, at length,  
Know that freedom is bliss, but that  
honour is strength ;



That, though man have the wings of  
the fetherless wind,  
Of the wantonest air that the north can  
unbind,  
Yet, if health do not sweeten the blast  
with her bloom.  
Nor Virtue's aroma its pathway per-  
fume,  
Unblest is the freedom, and dreary the  
flight,  
That but wanders to ruin, and wan-  
tons to blight !

Farewel to the few I have left with  
regret ;  
May they sometimes recal, what I can-  
not forget,  
That communion of heart and that par-  
ley of soul,  
Which have lengthened our nights and  
illumin'd our bowl,  
When they've ask'd me the manners,  
the mind or the mien  
Of some bard I had known, or some  
chief I had seen,  
Whose glory, though distant, they long  
had ador'd,  
Whose name often hallowed the juice  
of their board !  
And still as, with sympathy humble  
but true,  
I told them each luminous trait that I  
knew,  
They have listen'd, and sigh'd that the  
powerful stream  
Of America's empire should pass, like  
a dream,  
Without leaving one fragment of gen-  
ius, to say  
How sublime was the tide which had  
vanish'd away ! P. 292.

In his censures upon our coun-  
try Mr. Moore, in some of his epis-  
tles, has been not a little severe.  
We do not mean to controvert  
their justness. We know, that in  
this land, where the spirit of de-  
mocracy is every where diffused,  
we are exposed, as it were, to  
a poisonous atmosphere, which  
blasts every thing beautiful in na-  
ture and corrodes every thing ele-  
gant in art ; we know, that with us  
the "rose-leaves fall ungathered ;"  
and we believe, that there is little  
to praise, and nothing to admire  
in most of the objects, which would

first present themselves to the view  
of a stranger. We have the same  
feeling with Mr. Moore for that  
miserable love of power or popu-  
larity,

Which courts the rabble's smile, the  
rabble's nod,  
And makes, like Egypt, every beast its  
God ;

and we know, that our country  
must improve much, before she  
can hope to

.... see her poets flash the fires of song  
To light her warriors' thunderbolts  
along.

But there are very few passages in  
these epistles, which are of equal  
merit with the two, which we have  
just quoted. The weapon of  
satire is unwieldy in the hands of  
their author. His indignation is  
impotent ; his invective is fre-  
quently little more than low ex-  
pressions, coarsely applied, "*lusco  
possit dicere lusce.*" In his poems  
in heroick verse there are many  
lines feeble and prosaick, and many  
that are tangled together by the  
continuation of the sense from  
verse to verse, and from couplet to  
couplet ; and there is, throughout,  
a lifeless dilation of sentiment, that  
will not satisfy the taste of the  
present day, accustomed to the  
poetry of Pope, in which every  
syllable is animate with meaning.

There are three poems in this  
volume, whose titles are, "The  
Genius of Harmony, an irregular  
ode," "Fragment of a mythologi-  
cal Hymn to Love," and "The  
Fall of Hebe, a dithyrambic ode."  
These resemble, in some degree,  
the forgotten pindarick odes of the  
age of Cowley. They are extrava-  
gantly irregular in metre, and  
thought, and expression. The two  
former are without plan or pur-  
pose, and the latter is not very  
decent.



To speak in general terms, we cannot recommend the poetry of Mr. Moore. Powerful as human passions are, we regard with utter disapprobation the author, who applies a torch to the bonds, by which they are feebly restrained. The publication of such poetry is not one of those errors, which the weakness of our nature admonishes us to be lenient in censuring. There is nothing, which can be more under the regulation of reason, than the morality or immorality of writings for the world ; so that it is often that men sanction much better principles of conduct by the authority of their writings, than by the example of their lives. There have been few authors, who have not had prudence to consider, that it would afford no pleasure to reflect on having endeavoured to give seduction to evil ; to delude the thoughtless ; and make levity guilt.

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ART. 2.

*An apology for the rite of infant baptism, and for the usual modes of baptizing ; in which an attempt is made to state fairly and clearly the arguments in proof of these doctrines, and also to refute the objections and reasonings alledged against them, by the Rev. Daniel Merrill, and by the baptists in general. By John Reed, D. D. pastor of a church and congregation in Bridgwater. Providence, printed by Heaton & Williams. 12mo. pp. 346.*

NO subject of controversial divinity has obtained so much attention, during a few past years, in the country parishes of this state, as that which has been excited by the sect of the baptists. Because our Lord did not *expressly* command his apostles to baptize infants, it

has been contended, that the practice is a subversion of his institution ; and because they, who were dedicated to God in their infancy, by their believing and pious parents, cannot discern the necessity of receiving immersion, they are considered, notwithstanding their faith in Christ, and their moral resemblance of him, as certainly excluded from his visible kingdom, if not, likewise, from all the future blessings which he has promised to his followers. We do not hesitate to confess, that we opened this volume with an expectation of being confirmed in the sentiments which it professes to vindicate ; and by the perusal of it, our expectations have not been disappointed.

‘The work is divided into four principal points. The first part has reference to the subjects of baptism ; the second, to modes of baptizing ; the third part is a brief account of the evidence resulting from history, and especially in proof of the right, of the infant children of believing parents, to baptism ; and the fourth part is an appendix, consisting of familiar questions and answers, adapted to persons of different prejudices and capacities, and suited to the present state and circumstances of the controversy.’

*Introduction, p. 6.*

If we had felt disposed harshly to censure any modes of phraseology which we do not approve, to erase any apparently redundant expressions, or to turn our eyes from proofs which were already familiar, the following modest and benevolent apology would have completely repressed the inclination :

‘The intelligent and well-informed reader will perhaps feel disgusted with the frequent occurrence of repetition, prolixity, and old arguments. My only excuse is, that I



have uniformly endeavoured to avoid obscurity, and to write as intelligibly as was possible ; in such a manner, as to be understood even by the weak and ignorant. I have accordingly studied perspicuity, more than comprehensive brevity, and plainness of speech, more than elegance of diction.

*Introduction, p. 7.*

The epistolary method which Dr. Reed has adopted, will probably be the most popular, and therefore the most useful. His arrangement of the subject is judicious : the arguments are stated with great clearness and force, and with sufficient precision ; and they are applied with the earnestness and candour, which should ever characterise the ministers of Jesus.

In proof of the right of infants to the ordinance of baptism, he appeals to an established and approved practice of the Jews, a practice which had continued from the time of Moses, of "initiating by circumcision, the offering of sacrifices, and by baptism, all the Gentiles who became proselytes to Judaism. They were all baptized : males and females, adults and infants." It is a sufficient reason for the *silence* of our Saviour on this subject, that the right was authorised by the usage of so many ages ; a silence, which, however, to the baptists, seems tantamount to the *loudest* declaration, that he designed its restriction to those only, who were capable of making a confession of their faith.

But it is the principal argument by which he vindicates the propriety and the obligation of infant baptism, that "the blessings of the covenant of circumcision, were not wholly, nor principally of a temporal, but of a religious and spiritual nature ; and that this covenant was not abolished, but established

and confirmed by the christian dispensation. That the blessing of Abraham, *that* salvation which was of the Jews, is come upon the Gentiles ; that they who are of the faith, are the children of Abraham, and blessed with faithful Abraham ; and if children, then heirs to all the blessings and privileges of the covenant. *They are the seed of the blessed, and their children with them.*" This argument he has illustrated with much ability ; and in the progress of it has explained, to the most common apprehensions of men, numerous passages in the epistles of St. Paul, of which many who are familiar with the New Testament have very inadequate conceptions. We recommend it to very attentive perusal, as a commentary, which will stand the test of examination ; and as a defence of the baptism of infants, which cannot probably be evaded.

In the 2d part, "the different modes of baptizing" are considered ; and the propriety of administering this rite of our religion by sprinkling is very ably and satisfactorily defended. Dr. Reed does not deny the validity of immersion, nor the propriety of thus administering this ordinance to adults, who have never been baptised, and who conscientiously prefer it : but we think that he has demonstrated, that there is neither an example nor a precept of the gospel, from which the obligation to this practice can be inferred. His criticisms on the verb βαπτω, and on the prepositions εν, εις, εκ, and απο, are not matters of taste, but of fact ; nor do they require even a knowledge of the Greek alphabet to understand them. On readers, who are intelligent and candid, though unlearned, they will hardly fail therefore of producing



conviction, that the application of water by sprinkling, either to adults or infants, is at least as scriptural, as by total immersion.

The third part contains observations "on the history of baptism," in which he exposes the mutilated quotations, by which Mr. Merrill endeavours to prove the antiquity and universality of the practice of immersion; and by adducing several ancient and unquestionable authorities, evinces, that sprinkling was a mode of baptizing in the second century, that it was applied to the children of believing parents, and that the practice has continued in the churches thro' all succeeding ages. It is mentioned by the fathers of the first and purest ages of christianity, as a practice of which no one doubted the propriety, and in the same terms in which it would have been natural to speak of it, if it had been sanctioned by repeated and explicit commands of our Lord and of his apostles. These "observations" display a mind inquisitive for truth, and which will not be satisfied with partial evidence, whenever that which is full and clear can be obtained; and not only will they be read with interest, but produce "confirmation strong" of the doctrine, which they are intended to support.

In the appendix a number of questions are proposed, with which baptists are fond of puzzling those whom they would convert; and the answers, in general, we believe would equally puzzle these zealous catechists. A defence of the baptism of infants, and of the usual mode of its administration, written in the form of a dialogue, and in the most simple language, and embracing all the passages in the bible which have any reference to these subjects, would probably be

more effectual, than all the learned volumes which the controversy has occasioned. With the utmost deference, we therefore venture to recommend to Dr. Reed, a separation of this appendix from his book, and such an enlargement of it, as will furnish to people in common life, a complete and familiar vindication of the propriety and duty of dedicating their children to God, in this way of his appointment. We suggest this plan to Dr. Reed, from a conviction of the ability with which it would be executed, and from a knowledge of his zeal to do good. If an apology for this recommendation be necessary, we think a reference to Dr. Johnson's eulogy of Dr. Watts will be entirely satisfactory. "Every man acquainted with the common principles of human action, will look with veneration on the writer, who is at one time combating Locke, and at another time making a catechism for children in their fourth year. A voluntary descent from the dignity of science, is perhaps the hardest lesson which humility can teach."

We cordially recommend this volume to all who are desirous of obtaining information on the subject of which it treats; and we think no inquirer, who consults it only for the purpose of acquiring truth, will remain unsatisfied.

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ART. 3.

*A discourse, delivered at Plymouth, 22 of December, 1806, at the anniversary commemoration of the first landing of the fathers, A.D. 1620. By Abiel Holmes. 8vo. Cambridge, Hilliard. 1806.*

DR. Holmes is entitled to much credit as an annalist, and may long be quoted, as correct authority in chronological statements; but it



is not owing to fastidiousness in us, it is not from an expectation of meeting with flights of eloquence in every paragraph, or with poetical description at the turning of every leaf, that we confess ourselves dissatisfied with this discourse. We think that the author might for once have contented himself with a general attention to historical fact, without descending to the minutia of narration.

The text is taken from the epistle to the Romans, xi. 5. "*Where are the fathers?*" After a short introduction, in which there is little to prepossess an audience very much in favour of the speaker, he proceeds to inquire, "who the fathers were, what were their characters, what were their religious principles, and what privileges there are in a descent from them?"

In the answer to the first inquiry, we meet with much to demand our critical censure. Narration, when it is well conducted, is generally as interesting to an audience as any part of a discourse. It requires, however, some degree of judgment to discern at what period it should commence, and to select the events, which are most interesting and of most importance; not a little ingenuity, to embellish, as in the present instance, "a thrice told tale;" still more of feeling and of taste, to give pertinence to remark, sublimity to description, and impressiveness to exclamation. But here, the narration begins much farther back than is necessary; much is related which might have been omitted; and the old story—is the old story still. There is no pertinence of observation; the only attempt at sublimity we meet with, is a burlesque upon description; and the exclamations produce little more effect than as much unmeaning

sound. As an example of the latter, read the following:

*'Whatever it cost them! Noble resolution! Heroick spirits, worthy of the primitive ages of christianity!'*

We will extract a specimen of the orator's descriptive talents:

*'You have often, in imagination, accompanied the shallop, which was sent out with Carver, Bradford, Winslow, Standish, and a few seamen, to sail around the bay, in search of a settlement. When this little company divided, you followed, with anxious look, those who travelled on shore, yet not regardless of their fellow adventurers in the shallop. You trembled at that flight of Indian arrows, till you heard the report of the English muskets. But how great was your terroure, when the wind rose, the sea grew tumultuous, the rudder broke, and two men with oars, could scarcely steer the boat! How was that terroure heightened, when you found the storm increasing, the night approaching, the mast breaking, the sail the same instant falling overboard into the sea! You were relieved a moment, when you perceived that, by the mercy of heaven, the flood wafted the shallop into the imagined harbour; but what was your despair, when you heard the pilot cry out, *Lord, be merciful, my eyes never saw this place before!*—Again you are relieved, when you found the boat safely rowed off from the breakers, that threatened her, into a fair sound, and the pilgrims getting under the lee of yonder island.'*

Surely a man, who is ambitious of literary distinction, should be ashamed of such a style as this. We were indeed very much "relieved," and were extremely glad, without any expectation of it, to find ourselves, all at once, so comfortably and calmly sheltered "under the lee of yonder island," after the fury of the

Unà Eurusque Notusque .....  
..... clamorque virum stridorque  
rudentum.

However, we were still more "relieved," and much more recon-



ciled to the author, when, under the next general head, we read the following tribute of respect to the late Dr. Belknap :

'Why should I detain you, either to prove or to illustrate the disinterested philanthropy and paternal condescension of Carver ; the profound wisdom and exemplary moderation of Bradford ; the unaffected modesty and patriarchal simplicity of Brewster ; the prudent activity and persevering services of Cushman ; the pre-eminent abilities and inflexible integrity of Winslow ; the daring intrepidity and heroick achievements of Standish ? These illustrious names, and the merits attached to them, are entirely familiar to you ; nor would faithful tradition, or your more faithful records, ever suffer them to pass into oblivion. To a tablet, however, less perishable than either of these, are their names committed ; and it ought to heighten the pleasures of this day to reflect, that a biographer, worthy of them, has at length been found. While faithful narrative, discriminating remark, and purity of style, continue to be universally pleasing, the fathers of New-England will live in the pages of Belknap.'

But, that the contrasts may be striking in this rough-wrought piece of Mosaick, in answer to the third inquiry, is given the platform of church discipline, with the articles of religious creed, subscribed to by our forefathers. Of this division we only remark, that it would have been quite as interesting, subjoined in a note. It is making a discourse truly a farrago ; it is introducing arguments, when they are least likely to be attended to, and when an audience require a restorative of some kind or other, after being, as in this instance, drowsily dragged through a dull, dry, dreary piece of narration.

On the whole, this discourse may well be compared to the earth, as described by an ancient poet : " Its greater part," says he, " is covered by the uninhabitable ocean ; of the

rest, some is encumbered with naked mountains, and some lost under barren sands ; some scorched with unremitting heat, and some petrified with perpetual frost ; so that only a small portion is left for the production of fruits, the pasture of cattle, and the accommodation of man."

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ART. 3.

*An inaugural oration, delivered in the chapel of Williams College, Oct. 14, 1806. By Gamaliel S. Olds, A.M. professor of mathematics and natural philosophy.—Stockbridge, Willard. 1806.*

IN this address the professor explains " the importance of mathematical and philosophical science." The style is perspicuous and animated, and the illustrations are happily selected. It sometimes seems almost too lively and poetick for a teacher of the mathematics ; and we presume the author neglected to calculate with accuracy the effect of a metaphor, even in his first sentence. " The great Father of our spirits has formed the mind of man for improvement, and inspired him with an ardent thirst for knowledge."—He had probably in his mind the sublime sentiment of Job, *the inspiration of the Almighty hath given him understanding*. But no man can reasonably be grateful, that he is inspired with burning thirst.

One other sentence seems objectionable, but the author's correctness would have spared us the mention of an anti-climax, had he re-perused the address after the ardour of composition had abated. " It is the sublime employment of the natural philosopher to investi-



gate by observation and accurate experiment the laws of the material system, measure with mathematical precision their power and extent, designate their application to the useful purposes of life, and explain the phenomena of the system." Surely the last member of this sentence has usurped the place which was due to the preceding; for the advantage of science must be its application to the useful purposes of life.

But we wish, that every oration, sermon, address, speech, et hoc genus omne, with which our country swarms, contained as much good sense, conveyed in as pure a style, as the pamphlet now before us. After naming Bacon and Newton, the great masters of experimental philosophy, the professor proceeds,

'Subsequent adventurers, inheriting the spirit of their fathers, and animated by generous emulation, have explored new regions in the physical world. The hand of electrical philosophy has drawn aside the modest veil of nature, and shown us that sea of liquid fire in which we walk, and which is prepared at the word of the Almighty, to burn up the earth and the works therein, and melt the elements with fervent heat. The persevering researches of the chemist have taught us the composition of some of those elastick fluids, by which the earth is shaken to its centre, and guilty nations punished with ruin.'

Against the old atheistical notion of the eternity and consequent self-existence of matter, we find an argument, that has never been better urged, and is certainly irresistible.

'But it was not the design of God, that the material system should bear the stamp of eternal duration. No, those philosophers, who resort to this, as the last resource of labouring infi-

delity, have no hold. By the accurate observation of astronomers it appears, that the circles of planetary motion gradually diminish. Consequently, if the universe be supposed eternal, all the planets by this convergency, however small in a few thousand years, must long since have fallen into the sun, and the whole system [have] perished in one undistinguished mass.'

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ART. 4.

*The First Church Collection of Sacred Musick. Second edition.*

—Look, how the floor of heaven  
Is thick inlaid with pattens of bright gold;  
There's not the smallest orb, which thou behold'st,  
But in his motion like an angel sings,  
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim:  
Such harmony is in immortal souls! SHAKS.

Boston, Thomas & Andrews.  
Sept. 1806. pp. 135.

WE have examined this work, with no inconsiderable solicitude, to discover the proofs of a better taste, than has hitherto prevailed in our country, in selecting musick for devotional occasions. That grave and solemn compositions are proper for the publick worship of the Deity, every one must confess, who has any sense of the decorum which belongs to time, place, and occasion. The heart, which is impressed with a sense of imperfection, which is penitent for its errors, which is most desirous to appease the displeasure of heaven, and which aspires after a happy immortality, will never employ the lively and unmeaning strains of a ballad in its ascriptions of praise to the Supreme Being. But though all sacred musick is designed for solemn occasions, and therefore every thing gay, trifling, and expressive of levity, ought to be excluded from publick worship; yet



selections of psalmody should combine with the excellencies of composition all the varieties of grave, plaintive, and cheerful airs.

Massachusetts and Connecticut have been deluged with original compositions in musick; and if we should judge of their merit from their number, we in truth excel all the nations of Europe and all the ages of antiquity in the art. We must confess, that we have no Handel, for the honour of whose birth seven cities might contend: but every city and every village in our country boasts of its Handel, and presents you a monument of his fame

*Ere perennius.*

American tunes are not to be used in our churches, because they are of domestick origin; nor ought any of them to be rejected for the same reason. It must be confessed, that but few of them bear the marks of genius and taste, like the little tune called *Brookfield*, which is ascribed to Billings. So long as sound can express the feelings of the affectionate heart, this will continue to be used with increasing delight, at the commemoration of the supper. Those pieces which have been used for a long course of time, and which, though often repeated, always vibrate pleasantly on the ear, must possess merit in the *harmony*, as well as in the *air*. Musical compositions, like other species of writings, depend for existence, and long life and fame, on their intrinsick excellence. A prejudice against American compositions as such, is illiberal, unphilosophical, and contrary to the spirit of patriotism. But sorry are we to say, that, with but few exceptions, the mass of American

compositions in this art, is deficient in the soul of harmony, and as it is of the earth, it is fast returning to its original dust.

We are happy to be able, on a careful inspection, to speak well of this collection. The tunes which are taken from American authors, are, in general, of a respectable character. But some of them, particularly *Confidence* and *Coronation* must have been admitted more from a charitable tenderness to the opinion of the multitude, than from any genius or taste to be discovered in their composition. Most of the pieces are from European masters, and published, as far as we can judge, particularly in the *tenor* and *bass*, without alteration from the original.\* This circumstance entitles the work to some considerable praise, when it is recollected, that, according to the dishonest practice of the times, you scarcely meet with an American edition of a European work in its true original dress. This barbarous practice has more particularly prevailed in the republication of foreign musick. It is a practice derogatory to our national character, and as it is not to be tolerated in a civilized country, it will not, we hope, in future, pass with impunity.

We feel great pleasure in recommending this, and also "the Salem Collection of Classical Sacred Musick," a work of most respectable character, to the use of our Churches. They are calculated to inspire a chaste taste for the art, and to aid the spirit of devotion.

\* We notice that HABBAKKUK is altered in the time, and that there are some notes displaced in ITALY.



## CATALOGUE

### OF NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. For JANUARY, 1807.

*Sunt bona, sunt quædam mediocria, sunt mala plura.*—MART.

#### NEW WORKS.

##### Law.

Reports of cases argued and adjudged in the supreme court of the United States, in February term, 1804, and February term, 1805. Vol. II. By William Cranch, chief justice of the circuit court of the district of Columbia. *Potius ignoratio juris litigioso est, quam scientia.* CIC. DE LEGIB.—8vo. pp. 446. New York, Isaac Riley & Co. Lexitypographic Press.

Trial of Thomas O. Selfridge, attorney at law, before the Hon. Isaac Parker, Esq. for killing Charles Austin, on the Publick Exchange in Boston, Aug. 4, 1806. Taken in short hand, by T. Lloyd, Esq. reporter of the debates of congress, and Geo. Caines, Esq. late reporter to the state of New-York, and sanctioned by the court, and reporter to the state. Copy right secured. 8vo. pp. 168. \$1 in boards. Boston, Russell & Cutler, Belcher & Armstrong, Oliver & Munroe, and W. Blagrove.

A correct statement of the whole preliminary controversy between Thos. O. Selfridge, Esq. and Benj. Austin; also a brief account of the catastrophe in State-Street, on the 4th of August, 1806: with some remarks. By Thos. O. Selfridge. *He takes my life, when he doth take the means whereby I live.*—Shakes. 8vo. pp. 52. Charlestown, Samuel Etheridge.

##### Physick.

Medical Papers, communicated to the Massachusetts Medical Society: to which is prefixed a list of their officers. Published by the Society. No. II. Part 1st. Containing 1. Medical Discourse on several Narcotic Plants, by Dr. Fisher. 2. Case of Ruptured Uterus, by Dr. Prescott. 3. Of Dislocation and Fracture, by Dr. Hazeltine. 4. Of preternatural Retention of Urine, by Dr. Thatcher. 5. History of a Wound in the femoral Artery, by Dr. Warren, jun. 6. Some Observations on Worms infest-

ing the Human Body, by Dr. Fisher. 8vo. pp. 56. Salem, Joshua Cushing.

##### Education.

The Arts and Sciences abridged, with a selection of pieces from celebrated modern authors, calculated to improve the manners and refine the taste of youth; particularly designed and arranged for the use of schools. By Charles Pierce, compiler of the American Citizen, Portsmouth Miscellany, &c. Published according to act of congress. 12mo. pp. 216. Portsmouth, N. H. for the compiler, Pierce & Gardner, printers.

Elements of Useful Knowledge, Vol. III. By Noah Webster, Esq. 12mo. pp. 300. \$1.50.

##### Divinity.

Strictures on Seven Sermons, with an appendix, by Rev. Daniel Merrill, on the mode and subjects of Baptism. In twelve sections. By Joseph Field, A. M. pastor of the church in Charlemont. pp. 88. Northampton, T. M. Pomroy.

The Baptism of Believers only, and the particular communion of the Baptist churches explained and vindicated. In three parts. The first published originally in 1789; the second in 1794; the third, an appendix, containing additional observations and arguments, with strictures on several late publications. By Thomas Baldwin. 12mo. pp. 336. Boston, Manning & Loring.

The Deity of Jesus Christ essential to the christian religion; a treatise on the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, written originally in French. By James Abbadie, D. D. and Dean of Killaloe, in Ireland. A new edition of the English translation—revised, corrected, and, in a few places, abridged. By Abraham Booth, A. M. pastor of a baptist church, London. 12mo. pp. 324. Burlington, New Jersey; Ustick, printer.

An Epitome of Ecclesiastical History. By David S. Rowland, late minister of the 1st church in Windham. Hartford, Lincoln & Gleason.



Christianity Displayed, or a rational view of the great scripture doctrine of Redemption and Salvation, through Jesus Christ—together with some practical observations. By a Citizen of Baltimore. 8vo. 25 cts.

Charity recommended from the social state of man—a Discourse, delivered before the Salem Female Charitable Society, Sept. 17, 1806. By Rev. John Prince, LL.D. Salem, Joshua Cushing. 8vo. pp. 39.

The Christian Banner. A sermon, preached before the Lincoln Baptized Association, and at their request made publick. By Daniel Merrill, A.M. pastor of the church of Christ in Sedgwick. 12mo. Boston, Manning & Loring.

A Sermon, preached July 13, 1805, at the funeral of Mrs. Lydia Fisk, late consort of the Rev. Elisha Fisk, pastor of the church in Wrentham. By Nath'l Emmons, D.D. pastor of the church in Franklin. Dedham, H. Mann.

A Discourse, delivered next Lord's day after the interment of Deacon Peter Whiting, who departed this life, Dec. 9, 1805, in the 60th year of his age. By Nathanael Emmons, D.D. pastor of the church in Franklin. Providence, Heaton & Williams.

A Discourse before the society for propagating the gospel among the Indians and others, in North America, delivered Nov. 6, 1806. By Thomas Barnard, D.D. minister of the north church in Salem. Charlestown, Sam'l Etheridge.

A Sermon, delivered Sept. 14, 1806, at the interment of Mrs. Rachel Smith, relict of the late Hon. Thos. Smith, Esq. who died Sept. 12, in the 74th year of her age. By Henry Lincoln, minister of the congregational church in Falmouth, Barnstable county. Boston, E. Lincoln.

A Sermon, delivered by Ezra Stiles Ely, on the first Sabbath after his ordination. Hartford, Lincoln & Gleason.

An account of the Massachusetts Society for promoting christian knowledge—Published by order of the society.—Cambridge, W. Hilliard. pp. 44.

#### *Poetry.*

The Trial of Virtue, a sacred poem; being a paraphrase of the whole book of Job, and designed as an explanatory comment upon the divine original, interspersed with critical notes upon a variety of its passages. In six parts. To which is annexed, a dissertation on

the book of Job. By Rev. Chauncey Lee, A.M. pastor of a church in Colebrook. Hartford, Lincoln & Gleason.

#### *Orations.*

An Inaugural Oration, delivered in the chapel of Williams College, Oct. 4th, 1806. By Gamaliel S. Olds, A.M. professor of Mathematicks and Natural Philosophy. Published at the request of the audience. 8vo. Stockbridge, H. Willard. Dec. 1806.

An Oration, pronounced at Littleton, July 4, 1806, the 31st anniversary of American Independence. By Edmund Foster, A.M. minister of the gospel at Littleton. Cambridge, W. Hilliard.

#### *Miscellaneous.*

Remarks on the Rights of Inventors, and the influence of their studies in promoting the enjoyments of life, and publick prosperity. 8vo. pp. 61. Boston, E. Lincoln. 1807.

An account of the Massachusetts State Prison. Containing a description and plan of the edifice; the law, regulations, rules, and orders; with a view of the present state of the institution. By the Board of Visitors. Charlestown, Sam'l Etheridge.

### NEW EDITIONS.

#### *Miscellaneous.*

Vol. III. Part I. of Rees' New Cyclopaedia, or Dictionary of Arts and Sciences. 4to. \$3,50 for the half-volume. Philadelphia, Samuel F. Bradford. L. Blake, Boston.

Vol. I. of *Εἰς τὴν Παιδείαν*, or the Diversions of Purley. By John Horne Tooke. Large 8vo. \$2,50 boards. Philadelphia, Wm. Duane.

The Stranger in Ireland, or a tour in the southern and western parts of that country, in the year 1805. By John Carr, Esq. author of the Stranger in France, &c. To which is now first added, an Appendix, containing an account of Thomas Dermody, the Irish poet, a wonderful instance of prematurity of genius. 12mo. pp. 334. New York, Riley & Co. \$1,50 in boards.

The poetical works of David Hitchcock; comprising, The Shade of Plato, or a defence of religion, morality, and government; in four parts. Also, The Knight and Quack, or a looking-glass for impostors in physick, philosophy, and government. Together with The Subtlety of Foxes, a fable. Boston, Etheridge & Bliss.



**Vyse's Tutor's Guide;** being a complete system of Arithmetick, with various branches in the mathematicks. In six parts. Philadelphia, P. Byrne, &c.

**Johnson's Dictionary of the English language in miniature.** To which are added, an alphabetical account of the heathen deities, and other fabulous persons; with the heroes and heroines of antiquity, &c. By the Rev. J. Hamilton. Second American edition. 18mo. pearl type. \$1.12, bound. Boston, W. Andrews.

**Principles of Politeness, and of knowing the world.** By the late Lord Chesterfield. With additions by the Rev. John Trusler. Containing every instruction necessary to complete the gentleman and man of fashion, to teach him a knowledge of life, and make him well received in all companies. 12mo. pp. 166. Boston, E. & J. Larkin.

**A Letter to his royal highness the Prince of Wales, concerning his moral and political conduct.** By Crito. Written at Islington, Eng. Sept. 1806. New York, S. Gould. 25 cents.

#### Law.

**A summary of the law of Set-off:** with an appendix of cases argued and determined in the courts of law and equity upon that subject. By Basil Montagu, Esq. of Gray's Inn, Barrister at Law. 8vo. pp. 60. Law binding. New-York, printed by and for I. Riley & Co. Lexitypographick Press. 1806.

**The Maritime Law of Europe.** By M. D. A. Azuni, late senator and judge in the commercial and maritime court of Nice, &c. &c. *Quid deceat, quid non; quo virtus, quo ferat error.*—*Hor. de Art. Poet.* In two vols. Translated from the French. 8vo. vol. I. pp. 524; vol. II. pp. 430. New-York, printed by George Forman, for Isaac Riley & Co.

**The celebrated trial of Hurdy Gurdy for a seditious libel, with the whole of the evidence of French Horn, the arguments of counsel, and the learned judge's charge to the jury.** Price 37½ cts. New-York, Bernard Dornin.

**The Trial, Condemnation, and Execution, of Richard Patch, for the murder of Mr. Isaac Blight;** at a court held at the Surrey Quarter Sessions in England. 12mo. pp. 35. Boston, Etheridge & Bliss.

#### Divinity.

**The Family Expositor, or a paraphrase and version of the New Testament;** with critical notes, and a practical im-

provement of each section. In 6 vols. Vol. 1, containing the former part of the history of our Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded by the four Evangelists—disposed in the order of an harmony. By P. Doddridge, D.D. to which is prefixed, A Life of the author, by Andrew Kippis, D.D. F. R. S. and S. A. 8vo. pp. 942. Charlestown, S. Etheridge.

**The Life of God in the Soul of Man, or the nature and excellency of the christian religion.** By Henry Scougal, A.M. To which are prefixed, memoirs of the author. Boston, E. Lincoln.

#### WORKS IN THE PRESS.

##### Law.

**A faithful report of the trial of the cause of Philip I. Areularius vs. Wm. Coleman, Gent. being an action for a libel.** Taken in short hand, by William Sampson, Esq. and given to the publick at the request of some of his friends. New-York, Bernard Dornin.

**Snyden's Treatise of the law of vendors and purchasers of estates.** Philadelphia, W. P. Farrand.

**An abridgement of the laws of Nisi Prius. Part I.** Philadelphia, Farrand.

##### Poetry.

**The Wanderer in Switzerland, and other Poems.** By James Montgomery. 12mo. New York, S. Stansbury.

##### Biography.

**Life of the Hon. Charles James Fox.** Interspersed with a great number of original anecdotes. By B. C. Walpole, Esq. New-York, Ezra Sargeant.

Mr. William Farrand of Philadelphia is about putting to press Bacon's Abridgment, to be printed from the new and improved edition of this work, the last volume of which is just finished in London;—Harrison's Chancery Practice, with additions and several new precedents, by W. Parker;—Douglas's Reports;—Tidd's Practice of the Court of King's Bench in personal actions, principally from the new edition, enlarged and corrected by the author;—and Cowper's Reports of Cases in King's Bench, from 14 Geo. III. to 18 Geo. III. from the new London edition. Several of the above works will be published with new references to the latter English Reports, and also to reports of decisions in the United States.

Messrs. Riley & Co. of New York will publish in the course of the pres-



ent week Powell on Devises ; Volume First of Johnson's New York Term Reports ; and Part I. of the Second

Volume of the same work. They have just published Smith and Ogden's Trial before the Circuit Court.

### INTELLIGENCE.

#### LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL.

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Paris to the editors. 3d Oct. 1806.*

"As to the state of literature here I can only tell you, that a man may be a great scholar in England and pass for a fool in France, so different are the pursuits of the two countries. Villoison, you know, is dead ; and I very much doubt whether there is another man in Paris who knows Greek enough to understand Lycophron or Eschylus. The price of newly printed books at the stores here is sufficiently dear ; but in the bye streets such as the Passage des Jacobins you may pick them up for nothing. I have just bought a very fine copy of *Stephens' Greek Thesaurus* for 100 livres. A stained copy is marked in *Lusm's* catalogue 10 guineas. Such is the difference between London and Paris. Indeed I was talking yesterday with a master of the Greek and Latin languages in the Polytechnick school, who did not even know that there was such a book in the world as *Stephens' Thesaurus*.

#### *Elgin Botanical Catalogue.*

The proprietor of the Botanical Garden near the city of New-York has published from the press of Messrs. Swords, in a duodecimo pamphlet of 29 pages, "A Catalogue of Plants contained in the Botanical Garden at Elgin, near the city of New-York, established in 1801." It appears from this, that within the five years since this collection was begun, about seventeen hundred species of vegetables, indigenous and exotic, have been placed within the walls of the garden. The scientific names only are printed ; as the present edition is chiefly intended to give information to Botanists abroad, that they may know what to send to the

proprietor, and also what to expect in return. When the number of species shall become more numerous, and more worthy of the general notice of his fellow citizens, it is his intention to give another edition, with the proper English and vulgar names ; to distinguish such as are useful in the arts, in medicine, and in agriculture ; and such as are poisonous to man and other animals, and noxious to the former. We learn with pleasure that he meditates also observations on the qualities of certain species ; with engravings and descriptions of such new ones as may from time to time be discovered ; after the manner of the *Hortus Kewensis*. In the short preface to the list, the reader will find the author's recital of his views and progress ; of the great objects in natural history and education he has in contemplation ; and of the principal benefactors to his conservatory, hot-house, and garden.

*Curious Observations on Light, during the late total Eclipse of the Sun. From a Letter of the Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D. President of Union College, to the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D. dated Schenectady, October 6, 1806, and communicated by the learned Writer to Dr. Mitchill.*

"At the instant the last direct ray was intercepted, and the obscuration became total, a tremulous undulating shadow, a kind of indescribable alternate prevalence and intermixture of light and shade, struck the earth, and played on its surface, which gave to the most stable objects the semblance of agitation.

"It appeared as though the moon rode unsteadily in her orbit, and the earth seemed to tremble on its axis. The deception was so com-



plete, that I felt instinctively, and, in spite of the dictates of my reason to the contrary, a tottering motion. Some who were present I observed catching hold of whatever was near them for support, while others leaning forward, and insensibly flung themselves into an attitude which indicated that they found it difficult to stand.

"At the commencement of this singular phenomenon, and while the surface of the earth appeared to be violently agitated, the light and shade were irregularly intermixed, and each seemed struggling for victory. In about five seconds the darkness prevailed. The light and shade suddenly separated into alternate and distinct arches. Instantly the arches of shade began to force the arches of light from us towards the horizon. The motion at first was very rapid; the alternate arches were narrow, and followed each other in close succession; the motion gradually diminished; the streaks of light became less and less distinct for about fifteen seconds, when melting into each other, the appearance ceased, and a settled gloom ensued.

"The scenes described at the commencement of the total obscuration re-appeared when the first direct rays of the sun were re-appearing. The same apparent agitation of the surface of the earth; the same apparent struggle between the light and darkness; the same separation between light and shade into distinct and alternate arches, and the same motion reversed; for now the arches of light seemed to crowd those of shade inward, and the whole movement was from the horizon towards the centre, which continued about the same time, and disappeared in the same manner as above described.

"A lake at first violently agitated by something flung into its centre, and sending its undulating waves to its circumference, furnishes a pretty correct idea of the appearance the surface of the earth assumed when the total eclipse

commenced; and, if after the first agitation of the lake had subsided, its undulating waves were to roll from the circumference to the centre, and especially could they alternately be tinged with light and shade, it would furnish not an incorrect idea of the appearance of the earth when the total obscuration ended.

"How is this phenomenon to be accounted for? When the direct rays ceased, why should the shadow on the earth appear agitated? Has this circumstance been noticed elsewhere, or in records of other total eclipses? If that part of the moon's orb which intercepted the last direct rays of the sun were an ocean, and tempest with a storm at the time, would not the effect have been similar to that described?"

#### STATEMENT OF DISEASES,

&c. from Dec. 20 to Jan. 20.

The weather during this month has been cold and clear, with short periods of interruption. The winds have varied only from one western point to another, except on two or three days. The thermometer has ranged between 48° and — 2°.

Inflammatory diseases have prevailed as usual at this season. The attacks of *pneumonic inflammation* have been more severe in adults than last year; at least so far as we can judge from those which have hitherto appeared. Those in children have yielded more readily. *Cynanche tonsillaris* has been quite prevalent; and *cynanche parotidea* appears to be epidemick. Many cases of *pleurodyne* have been seen, and some of acute *rheumatism*. In the former part of the month, there was a considerable mortality among aged persons—Some were carried off by a kind of pneumonic affection, others by disorders of the alimentary canal, which sometimes terminated in *palsy* and *apoplexy*.